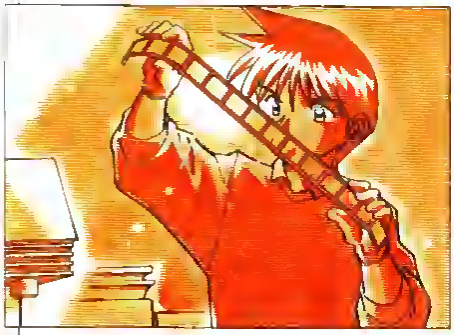

MONTHLY SHONEN MAGAZINE COMICS

Q.E.D.

……証明終了……

Quod Erat Demonstrandum

加藤元浩

Motohiro Katou

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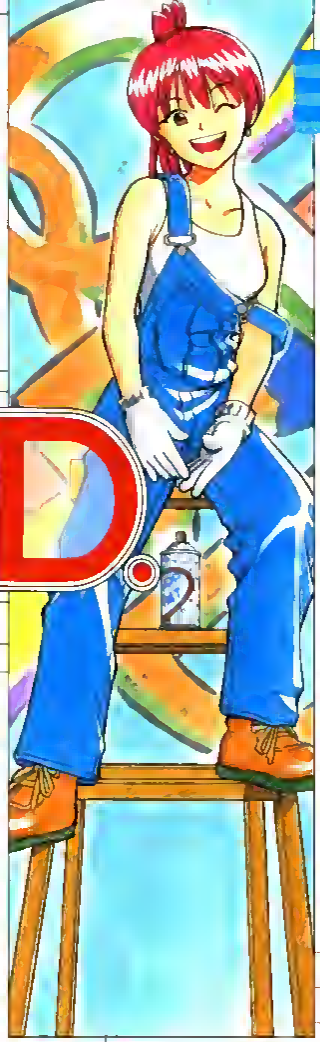

KCGM706

9784063337068

雑誌 41771-06

ISBN4-06-333706-5

C9979 ¥390E (0)

講談社

定価：本体390円(税別)

1929979003906

Q.E.D.

……証明終了

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Sou Touma

加藤元浩

MOTOHIRO KATOU

講談社

Quod

Erat

歪んだ旋律

光の残像

5

Demonstrandum

MONTHLY SHONEN MAGAZINE COMICS

Q.E.D. 1
ミネルヴァの梟
銀の鷹
Q.E.D. 2
六部の宝
ロスト・ロワイヤル
Q.E.D. 3
ブレイク・スルー
視せた星図
Q.E.D. 4
1st.April.1999
ヤコブの階段
Q.E.D. 5
歪んだ旋律
光の残像

講談社創業90周年記念
【KCフェア】ラッキーナンバー
077944

Q.E.D.の連載が始まって、とうとう単行本も5巻目まで出させて頂くに至りました。

始めの頃「10話描けたら自分をホメてあげたい」などと言っていたのですが、今回それに到達し、まだ道の途中である事を実感しています。

皆さん、燈馬君・可奈ちゃんの冒険をどうぞ楽しんで下さい。自分もそれを糧に頑張って描いていこうと思います。

……加藤元浩

カバーデザイン　朝倉健司

Q.E.D. 5

証明終了

KCGM706

Q.E.D. 証明終了 5

加藤元浩

加藤元浩 講談社

MONTHLY SHONEN MAGAZINE COMICS

我々は
斯くの如くして先の命題を
そうせよと初めの折に請われし係し
証明せり

Q.E.D. 証明終了

5

加藤元浩
MOTOHIRO KATOU

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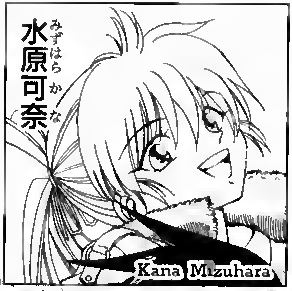
CHARACTERS



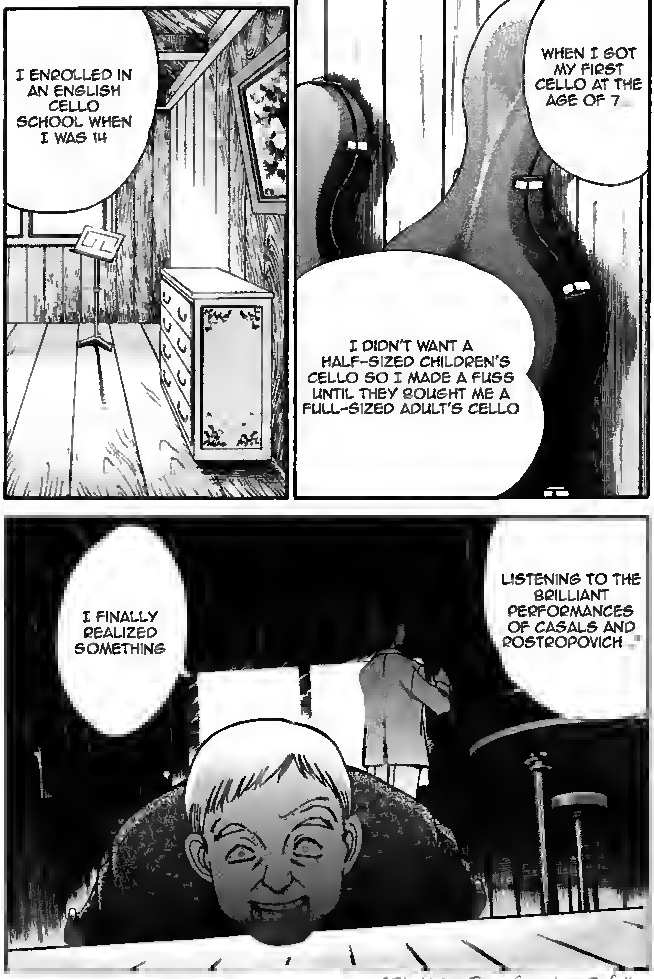
燈馬のクラスメイト。刑事を父に持つ。男勝りの行動力と、脳天気なまでの明るさがウリの、健康優良女子高生。

マサチューセッツ工科大学を15歳にして卒業、日本の高校に再入学した超天才児。多方面に豊富な知識を有する反面、人間の感情には疎い。

quod erat demonstrandum

THE DISTORTED MELODY

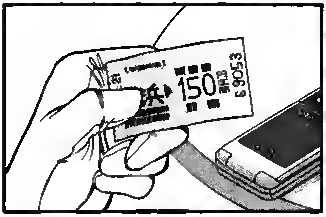
ZAA
ZAA
WEDNESDAY MORNING
9 HOAM
I FIRST HEARD A CELLO MELODY WHEN I WAS 5 YEARS OLD

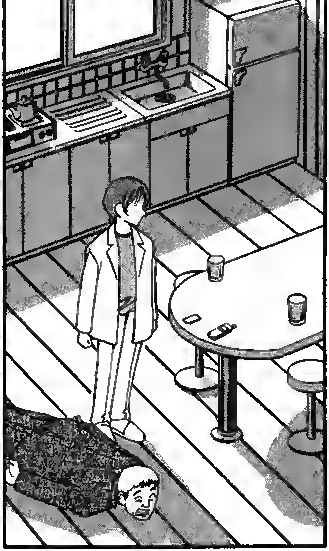

I ENROLLED IN AN ENGLISH CELLO SCHOOL WHEN I WAS 14
WHEN I GOT MY FIRST CELLO AT THE AGE OF 7
I DIDN'T WANT A HALF-SIZED CHILDREN'S CELLO SO I MADE A FUSS UNTIL THEY BOUGHT ME A FULL-SIZED ADULT'S CELLO
I FINALLY REALIZED SOMETHING
LISTENING TO THE BRILLIANT PERFORMANCES OF CASALS AND ROSTROPOVICH*

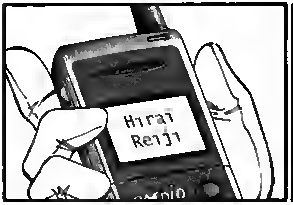
*TL Note: Pau Casals i Defilló (1876 - 1973) and Mstislav Leopoldovich Rostropovich (1927 - 2007), world famous cellists

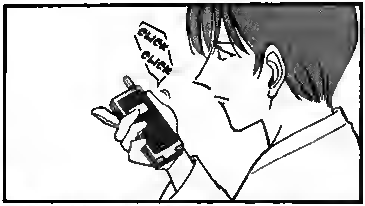
I REALIZED I HAD BECOME A SLAVE TO A GREAT ART...
HIRAI REIJI
CELLIST
AND I HAD OBTAINED AN INCREDIBLE POWER
THAT WAS
OOPS IT'S ALMOST TIME

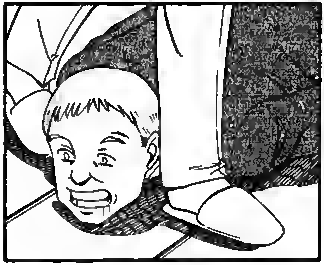
TL Note Ticket to Yokohama 150 Yen



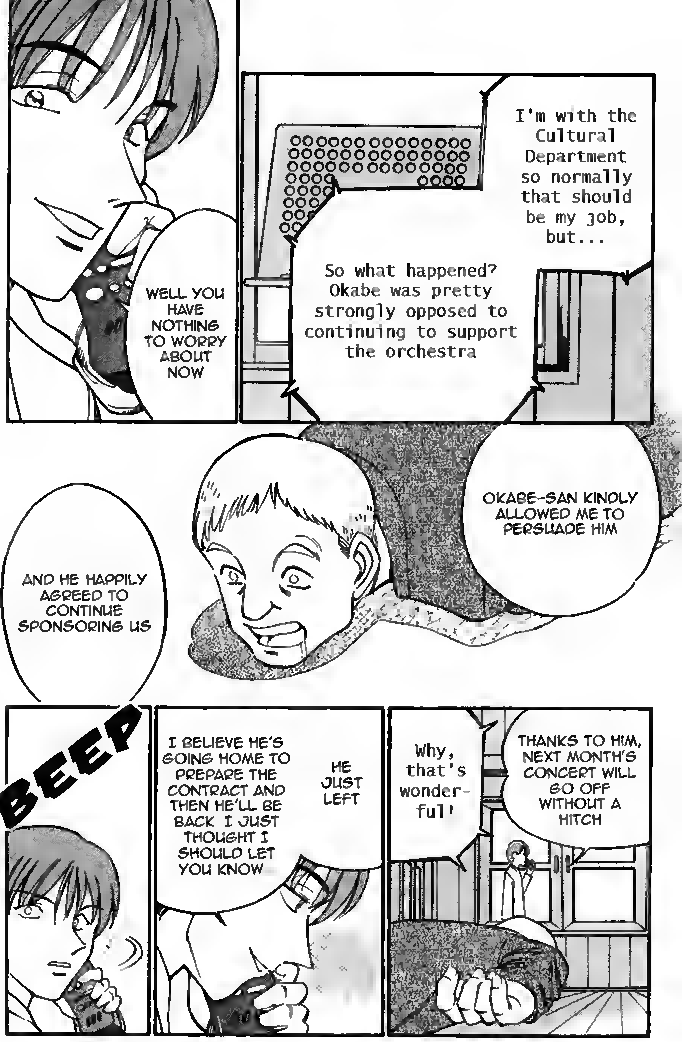








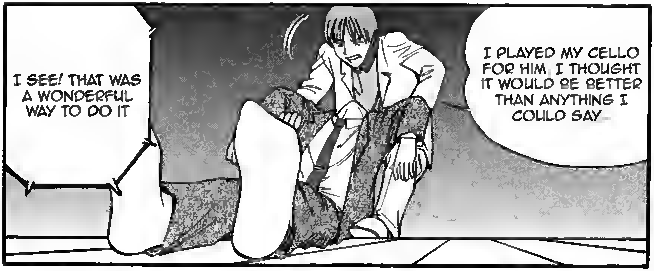
BIP BIP
CLICK
RING
Yes, this is Ishiguro
HELLO, THIS IS HIRAI
Aah! Hirai-san!
ISHIGURO-SAN, ARE YOU BUSY RIGHT NOW?
SHE MUST BE ON HER WAY TO WORK RIGHT NOW SHE'S FLUSTERED, BUT SHE STILL
THERE WAS SOMETHING I WANTED TO TELL YOU NO MATTER WHAT
N-no! Not at all! What can I do for you!?
HEHE
THIS MORNING I HAD A MEETING WITH PRESIDENT OKABE FROM YOUR COMPANY
ABOUT YOUR COMPANY CONTINUING TO SPONSOR MY ORCHESTRA
Ah... yes, I heard about that


WELL YOU HAVE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT NOW
So what happened? Okabe was pretty strongly opposed to continuing to support the orchestra
I'm with the Cultural Department so normally that should be my job, but...
OKABE-SAN KINDLY ALLOWED ME TO PERSUADE HIM
AND HE HAPPILY AGREED TO CONTINUE SPONSORING US
BEEP
I BELIEVE HE'S GOING HOME TO PREPARE THE CONTRACT AND THEN HE'LL BE BACK. I JUST THOUGHT I SHOULD LET YOU KNOW
HE JUST LEFT
Why, that's wonderful!
THANKS TO HIM, NEXT MONTH'S CONCERT WILL GO OFF WITHOUT A HITCH

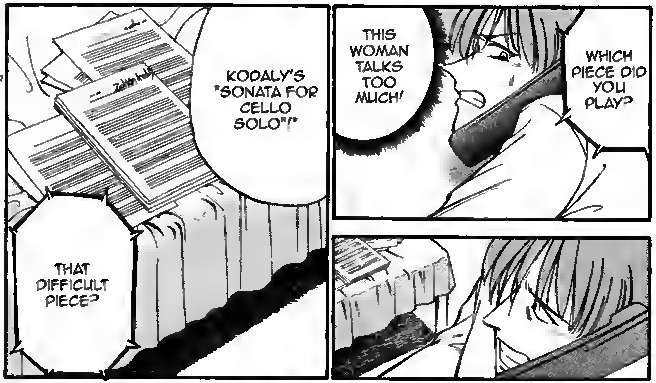
SHAA
RUMBLE
SCREECH
VROOM
WE'RE HERE!
WE'RE 5 MINUTES EARLY
THERE'S NOTHING AROUND HERE

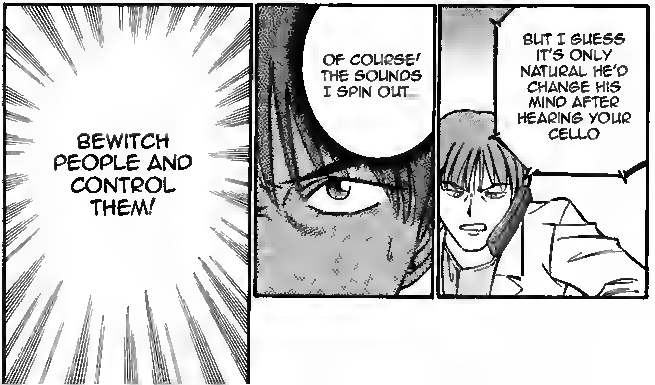
AH! LOOK AT THAT!
IT'S A COUNTRYSIDE BUS SO WE'D BETTER LOOK UP THE TIME SCHEDULE BEFORE WE GO
THAT BUS THAT JUST PASSED BY US, IS THAT THE RETURN BUS?
YOUR MOM HAD TO MAKE A TON OF PHONE CALLS, DIDN'T SHE?
MY MOM ASKED HIM IF WE COULD COME VISIT TODAY AT 10 AND HE SAID YES!
HE'S MOM'S UNCLE'S DAUGHTER'S HUSBAND'S COUSIN, YOU KNOW!
THAT'S HIRAI REIJI'S HOUSE, THE WORLD-FAMOUS CELLIST! HE'S BEEN IN TV COMMERCIALS SO YOU KNOW HIM, RIGHT?
HGH!
I'M SURPRISED YOU KNOW SOMEONE THAT FAMOUS!
QUICKLY! I'VE GOT TO HIDE THE BODY!

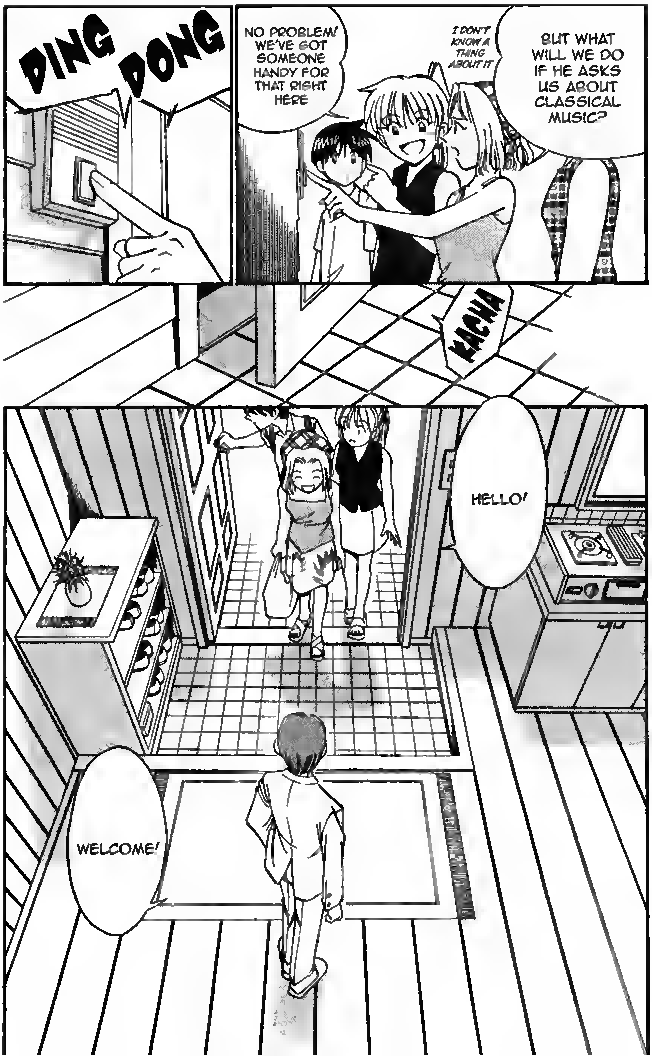
Phew. You suddenly went quiet
YEAH, I'M FINE
EH?
Hirai-san? Are you okay?
HUH?
So how did you persuade him?
I'm just wondering how on earth you managed to persuade him
Well... we just couldn't get him to understand the importance of the cultural department...
Okabe was sent by a bank to restructure our finances, so...
I USED
MUSIC
DRAG
DRAG



*TL Note Zoltan Kodaly (1882 - 1967), Hungarian composer




BEWITCH PEOPLE AND CONTROL THEM!
OF COURSE! THE SOUNDS I SPIN OUT
BUT I GUESS IT'S ONLY NATURAL HE'D CHANGE HIS MIND AFTER HEARING YOUR CELLO


DING DONG
NO PROBLEM! WE'VE GOT SOMEONE HANDY FOR THAT RIGHT HERE
I DON'T KNOW A THING ABOUT IT
BUT WHAT WILL WE DO IF HE ASKS US ABOUT CLASSICAL MUSIC?
KACHA
HELLO!
WELCOME!

PLEASE COME IN, MAKE YOURSELVES AT HOME
SORRY TO BOTHER YOU!
HE'S JUST LIKE ON TV!
OH YEAH! WE BOUGHT INGREDIENTS FOR LUNCH!
DO YOU MIND IF WE USE THE FRIDGE?

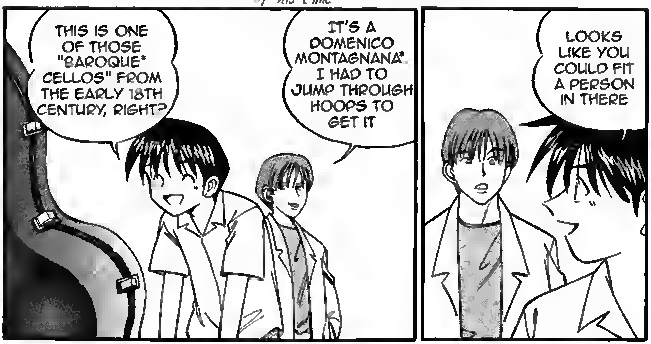
GEEEZ! I GUESS WE'LL HAVE TO FRY THEM
WHAT SHOULD WE DO? THE EGGS ARE BROKEN!
Aah!
CLICK
OKAY
HMM, WHERE COULD IT BE? HELP ME LOOK, TOUMA-KUN
UH, SURE.
EXCUSE ME, MAY I BORROW A FRYING PAN?
Where are you...where are you, frying pan?

YEAH
IS THIS IT?
I'VE GOT EGG ON MY HANDS... I'M SORRY, MAY I PLEASE USE YOUR BATHROOM?
IT'S A FULL-SET BATH-ROOM AND TOILET!*
I LIVED IN HOTELS ABROAD FOR A LONG TIME
CLICK
WHOA!
HERE'S A TOWEL
THANK YOU!
OH, I SEE
SO I COULDN'T RELAX UNLESS MY HOUSE WAS THE SAME WAY

*TL Note: Japanese houses normally have the toilet separate from the bathroom

THAT'S A REALLY BIG CELLO

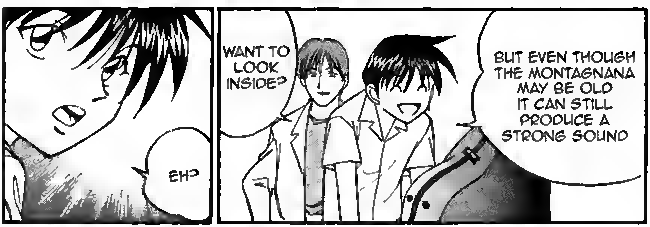
*TL Note
Domenico Montagnana (June 24, 1686 - March 6, 1750) was an Italian master luthier based in Venice, Italy. He is regarded as one of the world's finest violin and cello makers of his time.

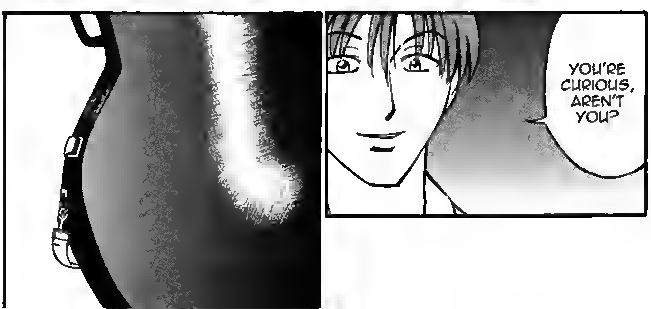

THIS IS ONE OF THOSE "BAROQUE" CELLOS" FROM THE EARLY 18TH CENTURY, RIGHT?
IT'S A DOMENICO MONTAGNANA. I HAD TO JUMP THROUGH HOOPS TO GET IT
LOOKS LIKE YOU COULD FIT A PERSON IN THERE

*TL Note Baroque is an artistic style prevalent from the late 16th century to the early 18th century. Antonio Vivaldi, J.S Bach and G.F Handel are often considered as culminating figures of the Baroque style of music

AFTER THAT MAKERS LIKE STRADIVARI* MADE THE CELLO SMALLER SO IT WOULD BE EASIER TO USE
THANKS TO THE GROWING POPULARITY OF THE PIANO TOWARDS THE END OF THE 18TH CENTURY, THE ACCOMPANYING CELLOS NEEDED TO HAVE A BIGGER SOUND THUS THEIR INTERNAL CONSTRUCTION WAS RADICALLY MODIFIED

*TL Note Antonio Stradivari (1644 - December 18, 1737) was an Italian luthier, a crafter of stringed instruments such as violins, cellos, guitars and harps. Stradivari is generally considered the most significant artisan in this field





HUH? DID YOU HAVE A VISITOR?
OW OW OW!
YOU MUSN'T ACT SO FAMILIAR WITH SOMEONE YOU JUST MET, TOUMA-KUN!
AH...
THERE ARE TWO GLASSES OF BARLEY TEA ON THE TABLE
SINCE YOU'VE COME ALL THE WAY OUT HERE I MIGHT AS WELL PLAY YOU A PIECE
THE PRESIDENT OF THE COMPANY THAT FUNDS MY ORCHESTRA'S CONCERTS WAS HERE
HE JUST LEFT TO GO HOME AND DRAW UP A CONTRACT
I USE IT FOR PRACTICE NOW
I'VE LOVED AND USED THIS CELLO EVER SINCE I WAS A KID
OH... THEN HE MUST HAVE BEEN ON THE BUS THAT PASSED BY OURS

IT'S A PRICELESS TREASURE TO ME, JUST LIKE THE MONTAGNANA
IT'S THANKS TO THIS CELLO THAT I AM WHO I AM NOW
DON'T ASK ME, I ONLY KNOW "FATE"!*
WHAT KIND OF SONGS DOES HE KNOW?
EH!?
NOW, DOES ANYONE HAVE A REQUEST?
HOW ABOUT BACH'S "UNACCOMPANIED CELLO SUITES"?*
I'M SO GLAD WE BROUGHT TOUMA-KUN!
YES
CASALS' INTERPRETATIONS* OF THEM ARE VERY FAMOUS
GOOD CHOICE. THEY'RE MASTERPIECES ANY CELLIST WILL ALWAYS ARRIVE AT

*TL Note: Beethoven's 5th Symphony is generally known as "Fate" in Japan

*TL Note: The Six Suites for Unaccompanied Cello by Johann Sebastian Bach are acclaimed as some of the greatest works ever written for solo cello

*TL Note- Pau Carles Salvador Casals i Defilló (December 29, 1876 - October 22, 1973), best known during his professional career as Pablo Casals, was a Spanish Catalan cellist and later conductor

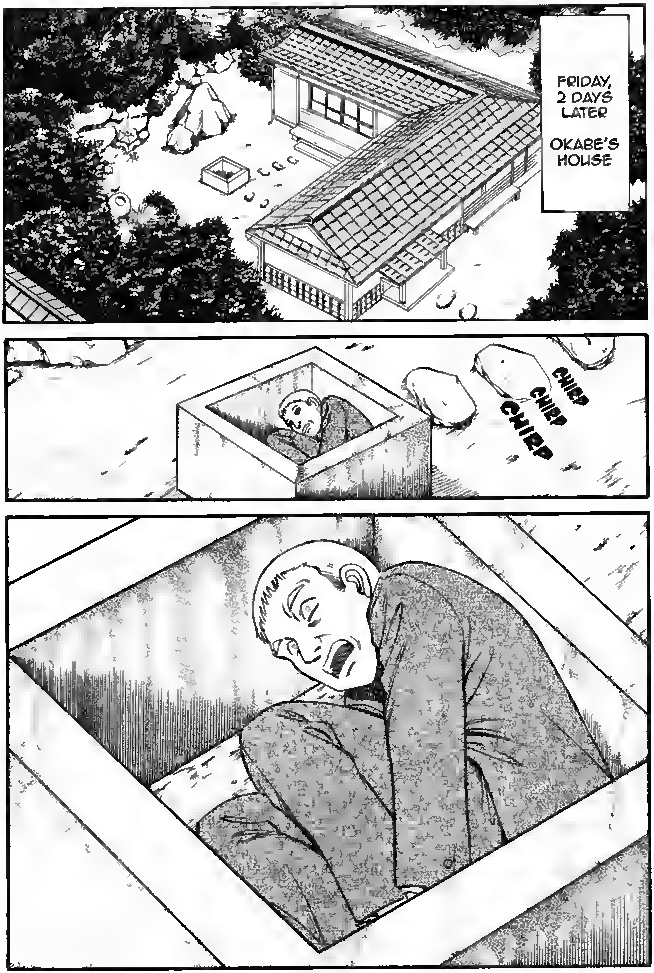
CLICK
BUT IT'S STILL BEING PLAYED TODAY.
BACH COMPOSED THIS PIECE ALMOST 250 YEARS AGO
DO YOU KNOW WHY GREAT ART LIVES FOREVER?
RRRRR!
EH?
DON'T YOU DARE LET GO!
WAAH! HIRAI-SAN'S CELLO!
PLEASE HOLD THIS
EX-CUSE ME

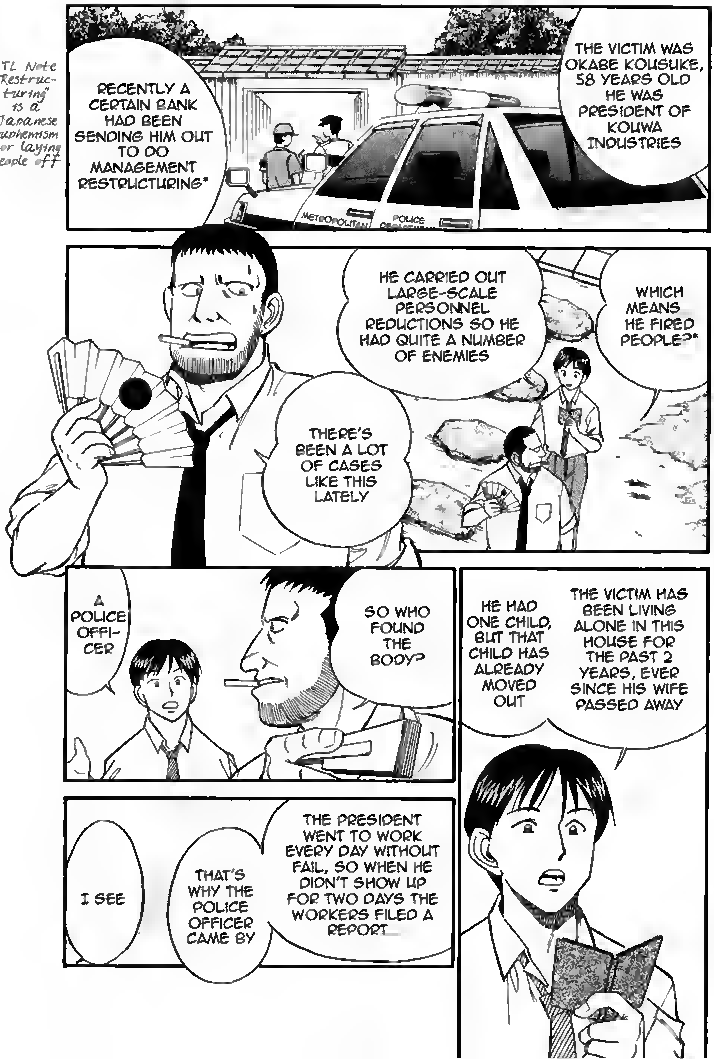
SOUNDS LIKE IT'S THE COMPANY PRESIDENT WHO JUST LEFT...
OH, OKABE-SAN... ARE YOU HOME NOW?
UGH...
WHIIINE
HOW CHEAP!!
DID YOU HEAR THAT? A COMPANY'S PRESIDENT CHEATING ON THE TRAIN FARE!
THAT'S NOTHING TO BE PROUD OF, IS IT?
WHAT? YOU TOOK THE TRAIN WITHOUT PAYING THE FULL FARE? AND THEN USED YOUR FIXED COMMUTER'S PASS...
WELL, TALK TO YOU LATER

THIS PIECE BY BACH HAS BEEN INTERPRETED IN MANY DIFFERENT WAYS BY MANY DIFFERENT PLAYERS.
AND THAT CONTINUES EVEN TODAY
NO PROB-LEM
WHEW THANKS
WHY IS GREAT ART IMMORTAL?
IT'S BECAUSE THE PEOPLE CHARMED BY IT CONTINUE TO PLAY IT... BETTING THEIR WHOLE LIVES ON IT!

VMMMM
VMMM
GO AHEAD AND OPEN IT, TOUMA-KUN
WOW
OPEN THE MONTAG-NANA CELLO CASE
?

IT'S EMPTY
!
THE MONTAGNANA IS AT THE CONCERT HALL
IF YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT IT SOUNDS LIKE...
COME TO MY CONCERT NEXT MONTH


FRIDAY,
2 DAYS
LATER
OKABE'S
HOUSE
CHIRP
CHIRP
CHIRP

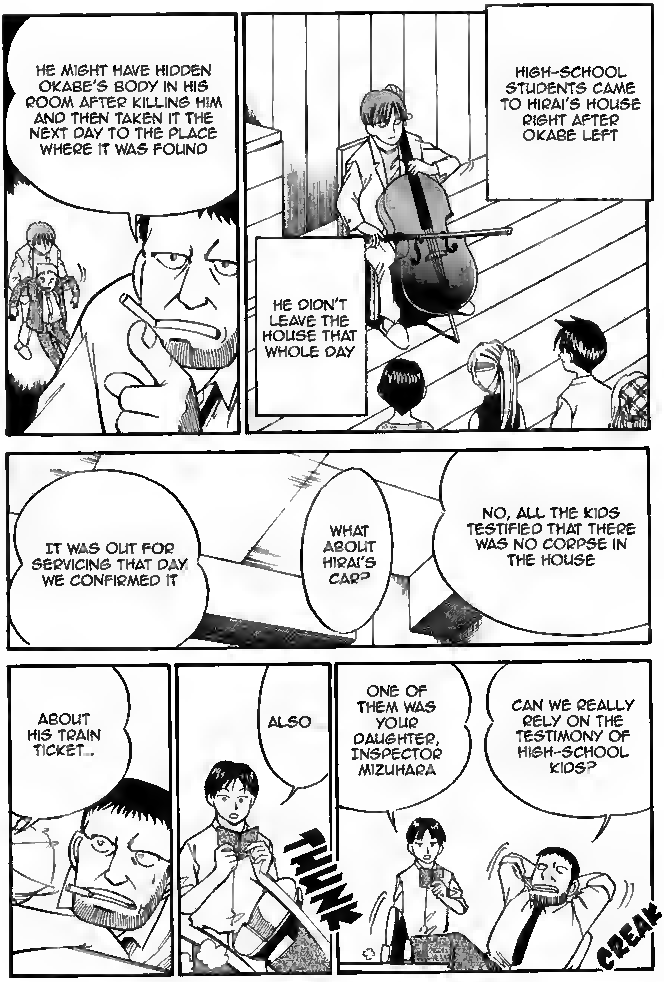

*TL Note "Restructuring" is a Japanese euphemism for laying people off
RECENTLY A CERTAIN BANK HAD BEEN SENDING HIM OUT TO DO MANAGEMENT RESTRUCTURING*
THE VICTIM WAS OKABE KOUSUKE, 58 YEARS OLD HE WAS PRESIDENT OF KOUWA INDUSTRIES
METROPOLITAN
POLICE
THERE'S BEEN A LOT OF CASES LIKE THIS LATELY
HE CARRIED OUT LARGE-SCALE PERSONNEL REDUCTIONS SO HE HAD QUITE A NUMBER OF ENEMIES
WHICH MEANS HE FIRED PEOPLE?*
A POLICE OFFICER
SO WHO FOUND THE BODY?
HE HAD ONE CHILD, BUT THAT CHILD HAS ALREADY MOVED OUT
THE VICTIM HAS BEEN LIVING ALONE IN THIS HOUSE FOR THE PAST 2 YEARS, EVER SINCE HIS WIFE PASSED AWAY
I SEE
THAT'S WHY THE POLICE OFFICER CAME BY
THE PRESIDENT WENT TO WORK EVERY DAY WITHOUT FAIL, SO WHEN HE DIDN'T SHOW UP FOR TWO DAYS THE WORKERS FILED A REPORT...

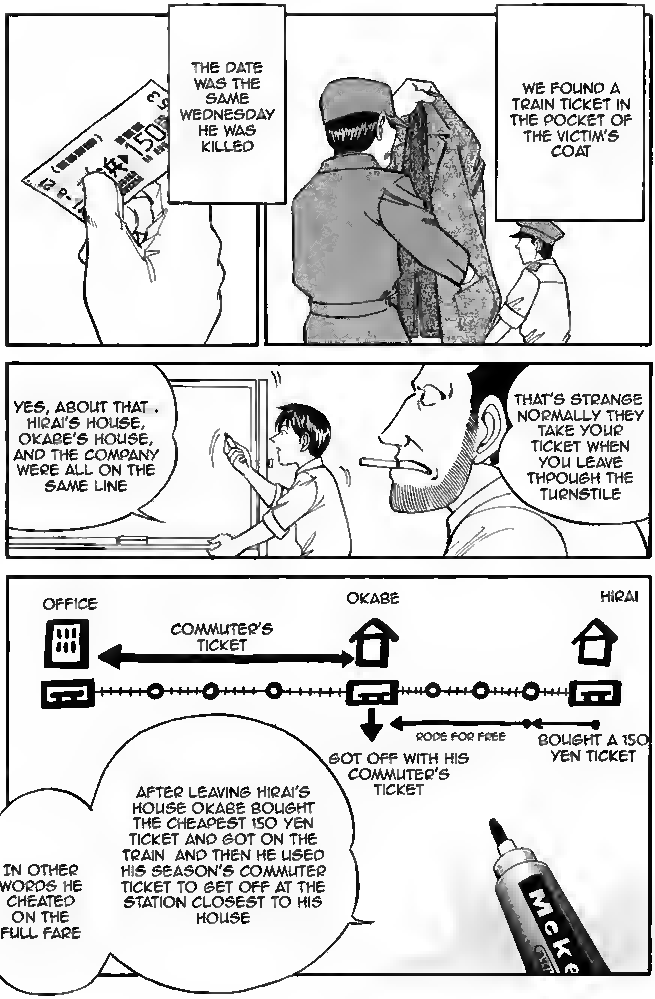
BUT WHY WAS HE STUFFED IN THE WELL IN THIS POSE?
THERE ARE MARKS ON HIS NECK SHOWING HE WAS STRANGLED WITH SOMETHING LIKE A ROPE
HMM -

ACCORDING TO THE AUTOPSY REPORT THE VICTIM DIED 2 DAYS BEFORE THE BODY WAS DISCOVERED, ON WEDNESDAY
THAT WELL HAS BEEN DISUSED SINCE SHOWA YEAR 40.* THEY FILLED IT IN BECAUSE THEY THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE DANGEROUS FOR CHILDREN

*TL Note Showa year 40 - 1965

THAT ORCHESTRA HAD ADDED THE WORLD-FAMOUS YOUNG CELLIST HIRAI REIJI AS FIRST CELLO
THE VICTIM OKABE PUT OUT A NUMBER OF MEASURES IN THE COURSE OF HIS MANAGEMENT RESTRUCTURING
ONE OF THEM WAS TO CANCEL THE LONG-RUNNING SPONSORSHIP OF A CERTAIN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
WITH HIM AS THEIR MAIN ATTRACTION THEY WERE PLANNING TO HOLD A GRAND CONCERT NEXT MONTH
ON WEDNESDAY MORNING, THE DAY OF THE MURDER, OKABE WENT TO HIRAI'S HOUSE TO HOLD DISCUSSIONS WITH HIM
THEN HE'S A SUSPECT
UH... NO
HIRAI HAS AN ALIBI


HE MIGHT HAVE HIDDEN OKABE'S BODY IN HIS ROOM AFTER KILLING HIM AND THEN TAKEN IT THE NEXT DAY TO THE PLACE WHERE IT WAS FOUND
HIGH-SCHOOL STUDENTS CAME TO HIRAI'S HOUSE RIGHT AFTER OKABE LEFT
HE DIDN'T LEAVE THE HOUSE THAT WHOLE DAY
IT WAS OUT FOR SERVICING THAT DAY WE CONFIRMED IT
WHAT ABOUT HIRAI'S CAR?
NO, ALL THE KIDS TESTIFIED THAT THERE WAS NO CORPSE IN THE HOUSE
ABOUT HIS TRAIN TICKET...
ALSO
THUNK
ONE OF THEM WAS YOUR DAUGHTER, INSPECTOR MIZUHARA
CAN WE REALLY RELY ON THE TESTIMONY OF HIGH-SCHOOL KIDS?
CREAK

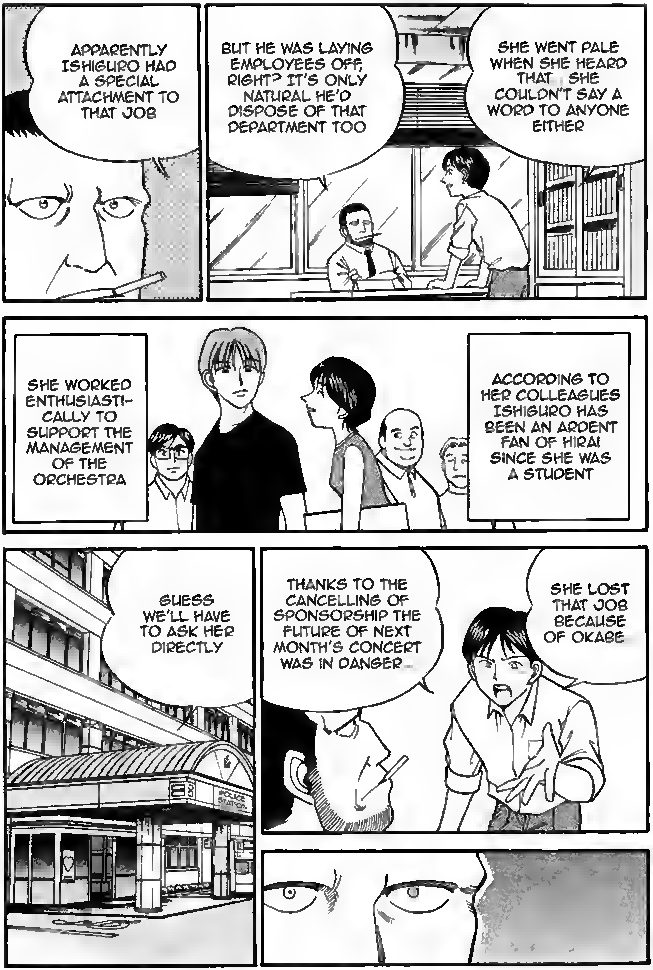

THE DATE WAS THE SAME WEDNESDAY HE WAS KILLED
WE FOUND A TRAIN TICKET IN THE POCKET OF THE VICTIM'S COAT
YES, ABOUT THAT . HIRAI'S HOUSE, OKABE'S HOUSE, AND THE COMPANY WERE ALL ON THE SAME LINE
THAT'S STRANGE NORMALLY THEY TAKE YOUR TICKET WHEN YOU LEAVE THPOUGH THE TURNSTILE
OFFICE
COMMUTER'S TICKET
OKABE
HIRAI
RODE FOR FREE
BOUGHT A 150 YEN TICKET
GOT OFF WITH HIS COMMUTER'S TICKET
AFTER LEAVING HIRAI'S HOUSE OKABE BOUGHT THE CHEAPEST 150 YEN TICKET AND GOT ON THE TRAIN AND THEN HE USED HIS SEASON'S COMMUTER TICKET TO GET OFF AT THE STATION CLOSEST TO HIS HOUSE
IN OTHER WORDS HE CHEATED ON THE FULL FARE

YOU DIDN'T PAY THE FULL FARE?
KANA-SAN AND THE OTHERS TESTIFIED THAT THEY OVERHEARD A PHONE CALL ABOUT IT AT HIRAI'S HOUSE
RIGHT
AND THAT'S WHY HE STILL HAD THE TICKET
HE DIDN'T CALL ANYONE ELSE AFTER THAT
ACCORDING TO THE CALL RECORDS OKABE DEFINITELY CALLED HIRAI AFTER 10AM ON WEDNESDAY
AND WE FOUND A CELL PHONE IN OKABE'S OVERCOAT
AND SOMEBODY VISITED OKABE'S HOUSE ON THE DAY OF THE MURDER
IT'S VERY LIKELY THAT THE MURDER HAPPENED AFTER 10 30
IN SHORT OKABE RODE THE TRAIN HOME CHEAPLY AFTER LEAVING HIRAI'S HOUSE, THEN CALLED HIRAI, AND THEN GOT KILLED

HER NAME IS ISHIGURO MAYAKO
SHE WORKS IN THE CULTURAL DEPARTMENT OF KOUWA INDUSTRIES
DING DONG
BUT FOR SOME REASON SHE WENT TO HIS HOUSE...
OKABE WOULD NORMALLY HAVE BEEN AT THE OFFICE AT THAT TIME...
SHE WAS SEEN BY SOMEONE IN THE NEIGH-BORHOOD

TL Note the text on the sign/plaque says "okabe"

ACCORDING TO HER CO-WORKERS, SHE WAS IN CHARGE OF THE ORCHESTRA
SHE HAD A FIERCE ARGUMENT WITH OKABE ABOUT THE CANCELLATION OF SPONSORSHIP
IF WE THROW IT AWAY SO EASILY JUST BECAUSE THE COMPANY'S IN TROUBLE PEOPLE WILL LOSE FAITH IN US!
THERE'S EVERY REASON WHY THE CULTURAL DEPARTMENT SHOULD KEEP WORKING!
HMPH PEOPLE LIKE YOU APE ALL THE SAME
YOU LET OTHER PEOPLE WORK TO MAKE THE MONEY...
BUT WHEN IT COMES TO SPENDING IT YOU GET UP ON YOUR SOAPBOX AND PREACH
WHAT NON-SENSE!


APPARENTLY ISHIGURO HAD A SPECIAL ATTACHMENT TO THAT JOB
BUT HE WAS LAYING EMPLOYEES OFF, RIGHT? IT'S ONLY NATURAL HE'D DISPOSE OF THAT DEPARTMENT TOO
SHE WENT PALE WHEN SHE HEARD THAT. SHE COULDN'T SAY A WORD TO ANYONE EITHER
SHE WORKED ENTHUSIASTI-CALLY TO SUPPORT THE MANAGEMENT OF THE ORCHESTRA
ACCORDING TO HER COLLEAGUES ISHIGURO HAS BEEN AN ARDENT FAN OF HIRA SINCE SHE WAS A STUDENT
GUESS WE'LL HAVE TO ASK HER DIRECTLY
THANKS TO THE CANCELLING OF SPONSORSHIP THE FUTURE OF NEXT MONTH'S CONCERT WAS IN DANGER—
SHE LOST THAT JOB BECAUSE OF OKABE

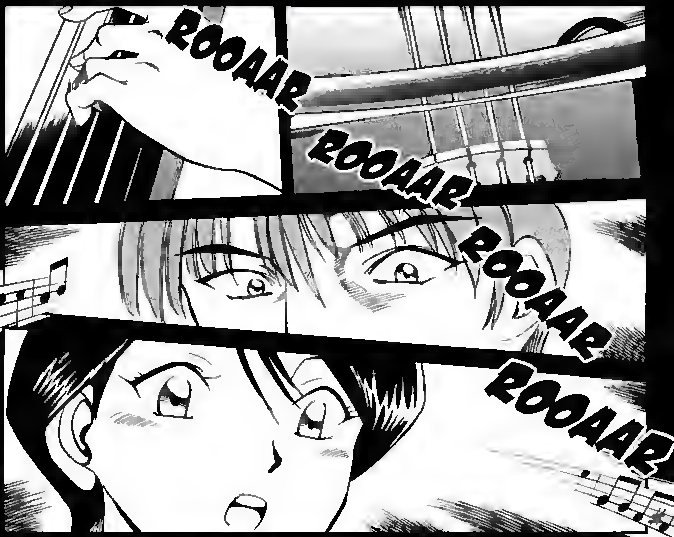
MURDER OF COMPANY PRESIDENT
MATERIAL WITNESS TO BE INTERROGATED
SOME PEOPLE AGREE!
CUT DOWN ON CULTURAL ACTIVITIES?
I'M SO SHOCKED! I NEVER THOUGHT SOMETHING LIKE THIS WOULD HAPPEN!
BUT AT LEAST I'M HAPPY HIRAI-SAN ISN'T A SUSPECT BECAUSE WE WERE THERE
PLUS IT LOOKS LIKE SUPPORT FOR THE ORCHESTRA IS GOING TO CONTINUE!

HAS THIS ISHIGURO WOMAN CONFESSED TO THE CRIME?
YOUR DAD'S IN CHARGE OF THIS CASE ISN'T HE, MIZUHARA-SAN
YUP! SO HE ASKED ME LOADS OF QUESTIONS!
WELL, ACTUALLY
I'M NOT ASKING YOU ANYTHING DIFFICULT
SHE'S NOT SAYING A WORD
I JUST WANT TO KNOW WHY YOU WENT TO OKABE-SAN'S HOUSE ON WEDNESDAY, THE DAY THE MURDER OCCURRED

SIGH
...
HE SAID HE WAS GOING HOME TO DRAW UP THE CONTRACT
REALLY? THAT'S GREAT!
WHY WON'T YOU TELL ME?
DO YOU HAVE A REASON?
...
COOL, THEY'RE HOLDING A MUSIC CONTEST!

COME ON, WE'RE ON A TRIP TO EUROPE! IT'LL BE A GOOD MEMORY!
EH!? BUT I'M NOT REALLY..
YAAAAWN
SOUNDS INTERESTING LET'S GO SEE!
YOU'RE RIGHT! AND THERE'S A JAPANESE IN IT
BUT THEY'RE DOING THEIR BEST..
EVEN THE JUDGES LOOK TIRED
THE PIECES ARE SET SO WE HAVE TO LISTEN TO THE SAME SONGS OVER AND OVER AGAIN
I'M SO BORED..
STEP
AH! IT'S THE JAPANESE CONTESTANT

ROOAAR
SHIVER...
EH?
SHOCK



*1. Note Johann Sebastian Bach (31 March 1685 – 28 July 1750) was a German composer, organist, violist, and violinist whose ecclesiastical and secular works for choir, orchestra, and solo instruments drew together the strands of the Baroque period and brought it to its ultimate maturity

YES, BUT REMEMBER CASALS CREATED FAMOUS SONGS THROUGH HIS NEW INTERPRETATIONS...
I'VE NEVER HEARD SUCH A FORCEFUL BACH* BEFORE.
WHAT WAS WITH THAT JAPANESE GUY, THAT HIRAI
CHATTER
CHATTER

I'M GOING TO THE BATHROOM
UMM.... ARE YOU SICK?
EH?
YOU'RE... JAPANESE?
WHAT'S WRONG? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? ARE YOU SICK?
N... NO
IT'S JUST... MY BODY'S SHAKING...

DON'T WORRY! EVERYONE SAYS IT WAS REALLY GOOD!
WHEN I START WONDERING WHETHER I OUGHT TO HAVE PLAYED LIKE THAT, I CAN'T STOP SHAKING...
AH... I SEE...
GREAT! I WAS VERY MOVED!
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
EH?
I'VE STOPPED SHAKING A LITTLE BIT
HAHA. THANKS

I HEAR YOU GO TO HIS CONCERTS A LOT
HE'S A HUGE STAR WHO'S WON MANY DIFFERENT COMPETITIONS
YES... THE ORCHESTRA OUR COMPANY SPONSORS HAS INVITED HIM TO BE THEIR FIRST CELLO
EH? HIRAI REIJI?
SEVERAL YEARS LATER
YES, SIR!
GO SEE HIM... AT THE PERSON IN CHARGE
City Music Hall
ESPECIALLY THE FIRST MOVEMENT...
THAT WAS A BRILLIANT PERFORMANCE!
HIRAI-SAN WAS SHAKING BACK THEN...
THERE HE IS!
AND NOW HE'S GOTTEN SO FAMOUS

NO, MY NAME IS ISHIGURO I'M FROM THE CULTURAL DEPARTMENT OF KOUWA INDUSTRIES
UMM. HIRAI-SAN
HUH!? A FAN? HE'S BUSY RIGHT NOW.
PLEASED TO MEET YOU TOO
AWW. HE'S FOR-GOTTEN ME!
IS THAT SO? I'M VERY PLEASED TO MEET YOU
I'VE BECOME A SLAVE TO MUSIC AND GAINED AN AMAZING POWER
OF COURSE NOT
AH... YOU AREN'T SHAKING

HE REMEMBERED!
I'M NOT THE SAME PERSON I WAS BACK THEN
WHY WON'T YOU ANSWER?

City Music Hall
SO ISHIGURO-SAN'S BEEN ARRESTED?
NAH, THEY'RE JUST ASKING HER QUESTIONS AS A MATERIAL WITNESS
SHE SUPPORTED OUR ORCHESTRA SO STRONGLY
WHAT DO YOU THINK? DO YOU REALLY THINK ISHIGURO-SAN DID IT?
WE ONLY HAVE ONE MONTH UNTIL THE CONCERT
THIS ISN'T THE TIME TO WORRY ABOUT THINGS LIKE THAT

AH...
...
HIRAI-SAN IS VERY STRICT ABOUT TUNING. HE'LL GET MAD IF WE BUG HIM!
WE CAN'T TALK TO HIM RIGHT NOW!
B-BUT SHE WAS A HUGE FAN OF YOURS, HIRAI-SAN AREN'T YOU A LITTLE WORRIED...
PLEASED TO MEET YOU TOO.
AH . YOU AREN'T SHAKING

IS THAT THE MONTAGNANA?
...

YOU'RE
THAT'S THE CELLO I DIDN'T GET TO SEE THE OTHER DAY, ISN'T IT?
WHIIIINE
YES? HELLO, THIS IS TOUMA
AH, EXCUSE ME
RING RING RING
MIZU-HARA-SAN
THERE YOU ARE! I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU!
HAHAHA THE PHONES ARE SO CLOSE THEY'RE GIVING OFF FEEDBACK
WHIIINE
WHIIINE

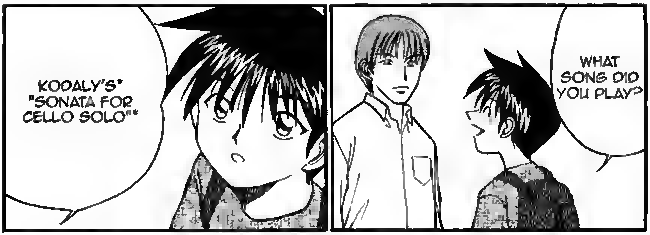
HAS THAT EVER HAPPENED TO YOU, HIRAI-SAN?
NO...
RINGING
BY THE WAY, WHY ARE YOU ..
AH, THIS IS MIZUHARA KANA-SAN
THANK YOU FOR LAST TIME
HER DAD IS THE DETECTIVE IN CHARGE OF THE CASE

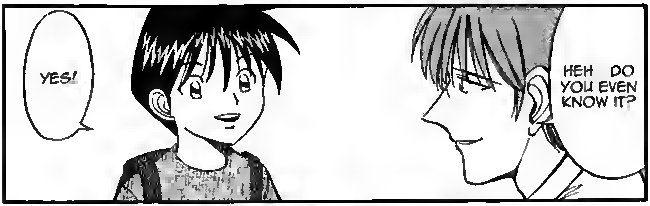
MY DAD'S AN AWESOME DETECTIVE SO HE'LL DEFINITELY FIND THE MURDERER!
PLEASE GO ON WITH YOUR CONCERT WITHOUT WORRYING, HIRAI-SAN!
OKAY THANKS
THAT WAS VERY UNFAIR OF US...
COMING TO YOUR HOUSE WHEN YOU'RE THIS BUSY WITH JUST A MONTH TO GO TO THE CONCERT
WE'RE REALLY SORRY WE HAD YOU INVITE US AT SUCH AN IMPORTANT TIME
BUT THANKS TO THAT YOU MANAGED TO AVOID SUSPICION, RIGHT?
UHH... YEAH
RIGHT? I'M SO GLAD!
BY THE WAY, I'VE GOT A QUESTION FOR YOU
OKABE-SAN CAME TO YOUR HOUSE THAT DAY, DIDN'T HE?

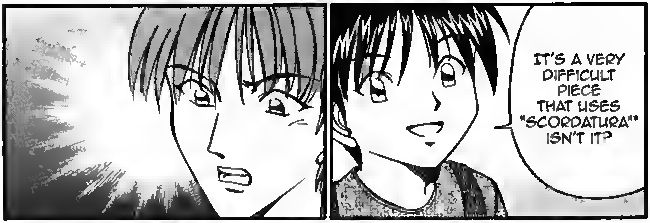
HOW IN THE WORLD DID YOU MANAGE TO CHANGE HIS MIND?
BUT ACCORDING TO THE NEWSPAPERS, OKABE-SAN ORIGINALLY INSISTED ON CANCELLING THE SPONSORSHIP
AND THEN HE WENT BACK HOME AFTER PROMISING TO CONTINUE SPONSORSHIP...
AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, MUSIC IS THE MOST ELOQUENT "LANGUAGE" OF ALL
I PLAYED MY CELLO FOR HIM
SIMPLE
CAN YOU REALLY DO THAT?
GREAT ART HAS THE POWER TO BEWITCH PEOPLE!
OF COURSE I CAN!

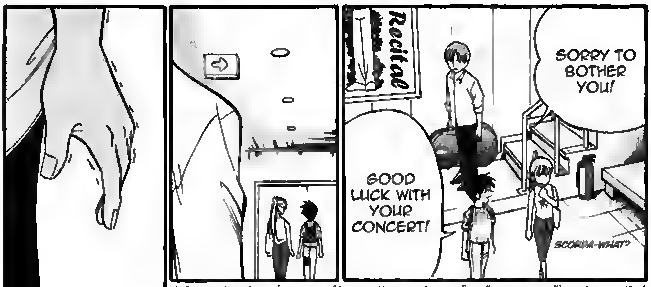
*TL Note: Zoltan Kodaly (December 16, 1882 — March 6, 1967) was a Hungarian composer, ethnomusicologist, educator, linguist, and philosopher

*TL Note: Kodaly's Sonata for solo cello of 1915 is perhaps the first major work for unaccompanied cello after Bach's Six great suites of almost 200 years earlier



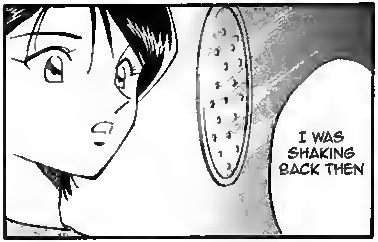






*TL Note: Scordatura (literally Italian for "mistuning"), also called cross-tuning, is an alternative tuning used for the open strings of a string instrument. In the western classical music tradition it is an extended technique to allow the playing of otherwise impossible note sequences or note combinations

Flute Recital


I WAS SHAKING BACK THEN

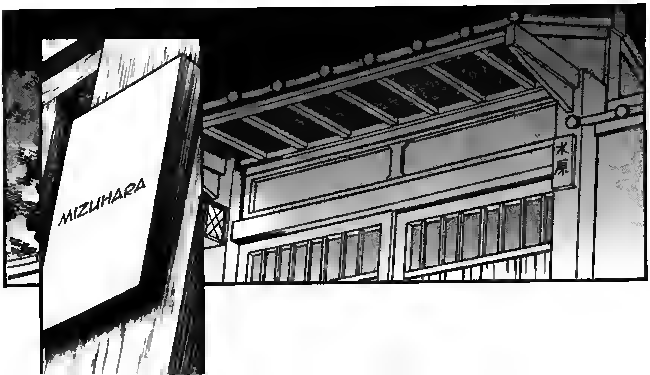
WHEN I WAS A CHILD THEY CALLED ME A GENIUS, A PRODIGY
THEN I WENT OVERSEAS WITH MY CELLO ..
AND I FOUND OUT THE WORLD IS OVERFLOWING WITH PEOPLE WHO ARE CALLED THAT

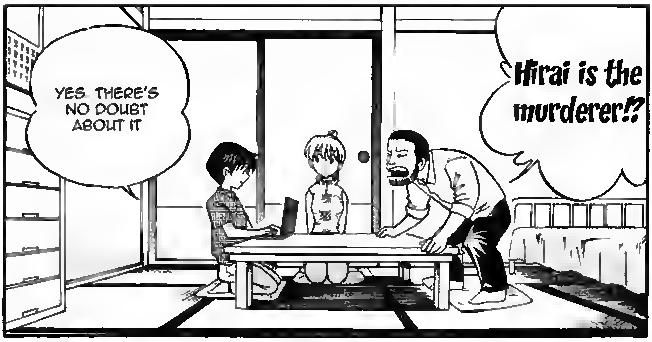
THAT'S WHEN YOU SPOKE TO ME
I GOT SO SCARED WHEN I THOUGHT THAT. I WAS AFRAID ALL THE TIME
WAS MY CONFIDENCE JUST AN ILLUSION?
AND THEN THE SHAKING DIED DOWN
NO.
I REMEMBER IT EVEN NOW
THANK YOU SO MUCH

?
WE "TRANSMIT" GREAT ART ACROSS TIME...
WE'RE COMRADES.
AND THAT IS...
IN ORDER TO GET HOLD OF INCREDIBLE POWER, SOMETHING IS NECESSARY.
IN ORDER TO BECOME PART OF THAT SERIES OF IMMORTALS...
A SACRIFICE!

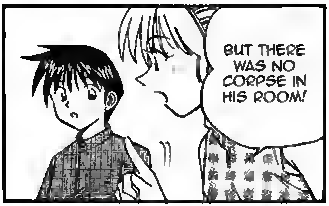
DO YOU UNDER-STAND?
...
THIS IS THE CELLO I'VE USED SINCE I WAS A KID IT'S A TREASURE THAT HAS BROUGHT ME THIS FAR
THUMP
YOU COULD EVEN CALL IT MY CHILD..

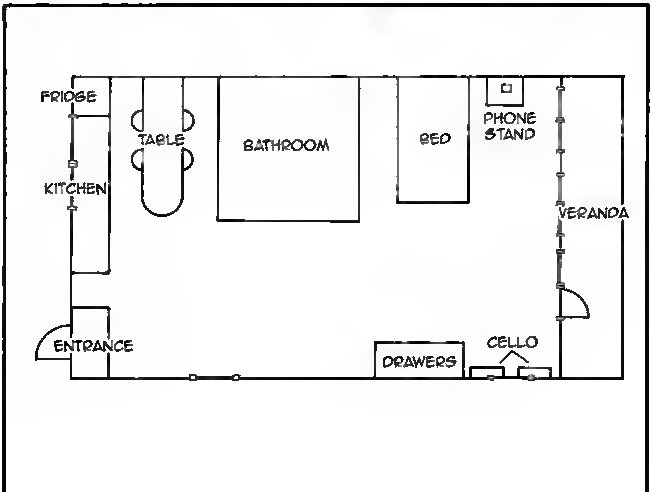
AS A COMRADE WHO ALSO OFFERS HERSELF UP TO ART...
I WANT YOU TO TAKE IT


MIZUHARA
水原


YES. THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT
Hirai is the murderer!?

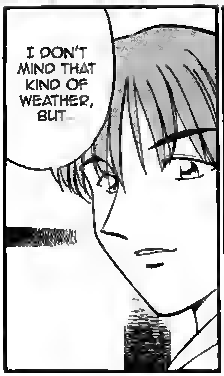
IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN, HIRAI-SAN'S HOUSE WAS LIKE THIS

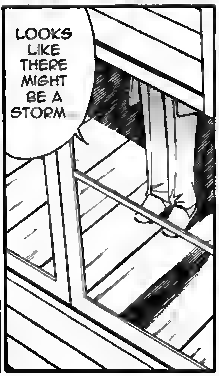

BUT THERE WAS NO CORPSE IN HIS ROOM!

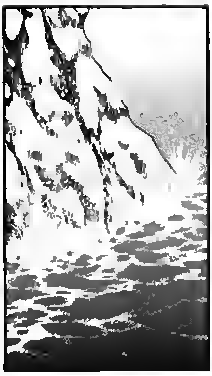

FRIDGE
TABLE
BATHROOM
BED
PHONE STAND
KITCHEN
VERANDA
ENTRANCE
DRAWERS
CELLO

WE LOOKED IN THE KITCHEN AND UNDER THE COOKER WHEN WE WERE MAKING LUNCH
THE CEILING ISN'T BOARDED UP SO HE COULDN'T HIDE ANYTHING THERE
JUDGING BY THE HEIGHT OF THE DRAWERS ONLY HALF A BODY COULD FIT IN THERE
THE TELEPHONE STAND IS OUT OF THE QUESTION
THERE WAS NOTHING IN THE BATHROOM EITHER...
THE BODY WAS IN THAT ROOM
.....
AND THE CELLO CASE WAS EMPTY TOO...

THERE'S NO DOUBT THAT HIRAI-SAN KILLED OKABE-SAN, HID HIS BODY IN THE ROOM, AND USED US TO CREATE AN ALIBI
THEN HE PUT OKABE-SAN IN THE WELL IN THAT SHAPE
BUT WHY!?
BECAUSE HE HAD A REASON TO DO SO!
THE REST DEPENDS ON THE COOPERATION OF THE POLICE
- WHATEVER IT TAKES TO LET US CATCH THE PERP!
Q.E.D. _
CLICK


I DON'T MIND THAT KIND OF WEATHER, BUT...


LOOKS LIKE THERE MIGHT BE A STORM...

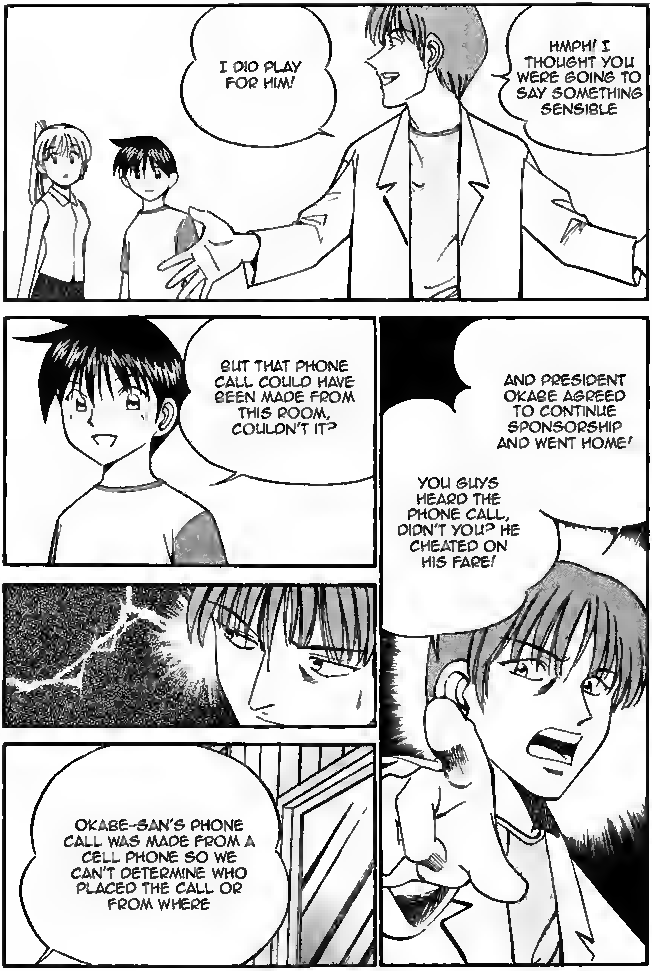


I LIKE TO SPEND DAYS LIKE THIS ALONE
PLEASE FORGIVE US FOR BARGING IN ON YOU LIKE THIS
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT
PEOPLE WHO LIKE MUSIC ARE ALWAYS WELCOME
I'VE GOT A COUPLE OF QUESTIONS TO ASK YOU ABOUT THE INCIDENT
HM... LIKE WHAT?
MY FIRST QUESTION IS ABOUT ISHIGURO-SAN'S MOTIVE FOR KILLING OKABE-SAN

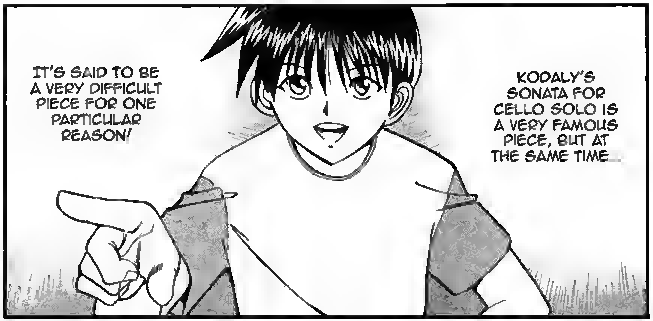
SO WHY WOULD ISHIGURO-SAN KILL HIM?
THANKS TO YOUR PERSUASION OKABE-SAN AGREED TO CONTINUE SUPPORTING YOU
SIMPLE BECAUSE SHE DIDN'T KNOW HE WAS GOING TO CONTINUE THE SPONSORSHIP
IN OTHER WORDS, ISHIGURO-SAN WOULDN'T HAVE GONE TO OKABE-SAN'S HOUSE TO SEE HIM UNLESS SHE KNEW THAT SPONSORSHIP WOULD BE CONTINUED
AFTER ALL, THE ONLY REASON OKABE-SAN WOULD RETURN HOME AT A TIME WHEN HE WOULD NORMALLY BE GOING TO THE OFFICE WOULD BE SO THAT HE COULD PREPARE A CONTRACT FOR THE CONTINUATION OF SPONSORSHIP
THAT LEADS TO A CONTRADICTION

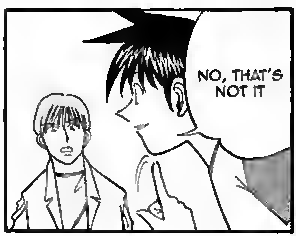
IN FACT, HOW DID ISHIGURO-SAN EVEN KNOW THAT OKABE-SAN WOULD BE HOME?
NOW LET'S RETURN TO THE PREMISE
.....
IS IT POSSIBLE THAT OKABE-SAN WOULDN'T HAVE CHANGED HIS MIND EVEN AFTER HEARING YOUR PERFORMANCE...?
STOMP
AH!

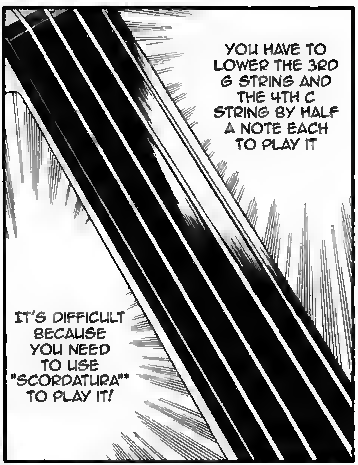
I WON'T ALLOW YOU TO INSULT MY MUSIC!
I APOLOGIZE
HIRAI-SAN... YOU DIDN'T REALLY TRY TO PERSUADE HIM BY PLAYING MUSIC, DID YOU?
HMPH! WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY ANYWAY?


I DID PLAY FOR HIM!
HMPH! I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO SAY SOMETHING SENSIBLE
BUT THAT PHONE CALL COULD HAVE BEEN MADE FROM THIS ROOM, COULDN'T IT?
AND PRESIDENT OKABE AGREED TO CONTINUE SPONSORSHIP AND WENT HOME!
YOU GUYS HEARD THE PHONE CALL, DIDN'T YOU? HE CHEATED ON HIS FARE!
OKABE-SAN'S PHONE CALL WAS MADE FROM A CELL PHONE SO WE CAN'T DETERMINE WHO PLACED THE CALL OR FROM WHERE

JUST LIKE I SHOWED YOU AT THE CONCERT HALL
BRRRRRR
FURTHERMORE THE TRANSMITTER AND THE RECEIVER WERE SO CLOSE AT THE TIME THAT YOU GOT FEEDBACK, CORRECT?
YOU MIGHT HAVE PUT OKABE-SAN'S CELL PHONE IN YOUR POCKET AND THEN DIALED YOUR OWN PHONE, FOR EXAMPLE.
NO!
YOU'RE JUST SPECULATING! I DID PLAY KODALY!
YOU COULDN'T HAVE PLAYED IT!


IT'S SAID TO BE A VERY DIFFICULT PIECE FOR ONE PARTICULAR REASON!
KODALY'S SONATA FOR CELLO SOLO IS A VERY FAMOUS PIECE, BUT AT THE SAME TIME...




YOU HAVE TO LOWER THE 3RD G STRING AND THE 4TH C STRING BY HALF A NOTE EACH TO PLAY IT
IT'S DIFFICULT BECAUSE YOU NEED TO USE "SCORDATURA"* TO PLAY IT!

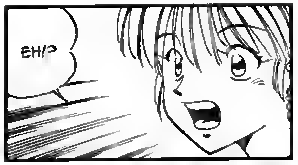
*TL Note: See page 056 for a note about Scordatura

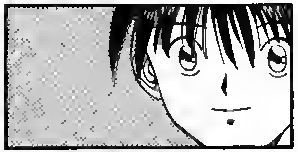
BUT BACH'S "UNACCOMPANIED CELLO SUITES" AREN'T PIECES THAT NEED ALTERNATIVE TUNING
AND YET YOU DIDN'T RETURN YOUR STRINGS TO NORMAL
BUT BY YOUR OWN WORDS, OKABE-SAN LEFT JUST AS WE CAME IN, YOU WOULDN'T HAVE HAD THE TIME TO RETURN THE STRINGS TO NORMAL
MOREOVER YOU'RE A MAN WHO IS VERY STRICT ABOUT TUNING
SO WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
IT MEANS YOU NEVER PLAYED KODALY!
YOU LIED ABOUT HAVING PERSUADED OKABE-SAN, DIDN'T YOU?

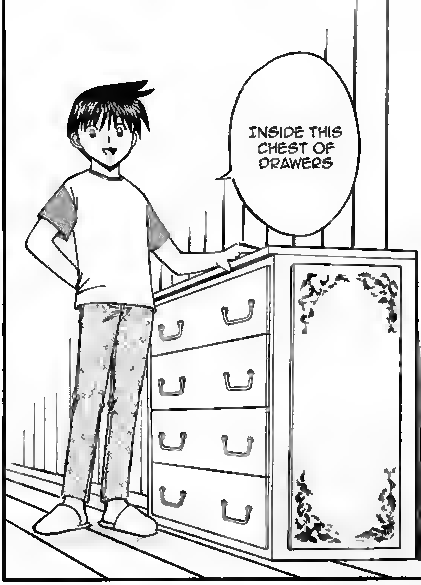
OKABE-SAN SHOULD HAVE GONE STRAIGHT TO THE OFFICE FROM HERE
IN THAT CASE, SINCE OKABE-SAN DIDN'T CHANGE HIS MIND ABOUT CANCELLING SPONSORSHIP, HE WOULDN'T HAVE NEEDED TO GO HOME
NOW, WHY DID ISHIGURO-SAN GO TO OKABE-SAN'S HOUSE?
DON'T YOU GET IT?
What the hell are you trying to say?
I-I DON'T KNOW! SHE MUST HAVE HEARD SOMETHING FROM OKABE-SAN HIMSELF!
ACCORDING TO OKABE-SAN'S CELL PHONE RECORDS THE ONLY PERSON HE CALLED THAT DAY WAS YOU
THAT'S NOT POS-SIBLE

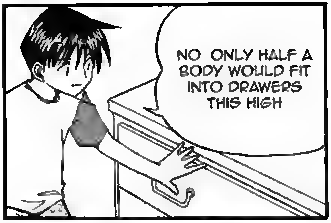
THE PERSON WHO EVEN KNEW THAT OKABE-SAN WAS HOLDING A CHEATING TRAIN TICKET...
THE ONLY PERSON WHO COULD HAVE KNOWN THAT...
THE ONLY PERSON OKABE-SAN CALLED THAT DAY...
IN OTHER WORDS THE MURDERER... CAN ONLY BE YOU
BATTLE
BATTLE

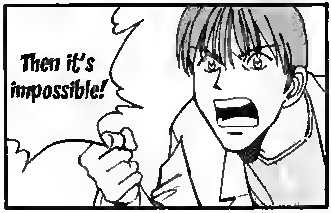
I WAS WITH YOU GUYS THAT DAY SO HOW COULD I HAVE KILLED HIM!?
HAHA-HAHA, QUIT JOKING AROUND!
HA.
AND THEN HID THE BODY IN THIS ROOM
YOU KILLED OKABE-SAN BEFORE WE GOT HERE...
NO, IT WAS EMPTY
IN THE CELLO CASE, MAYBE?
HAHAHA! YOU GUYS WERE EVERYWHERE! WHERE IN THIS ROOM DID I HIDE IT?
THE BODY WAS HERE

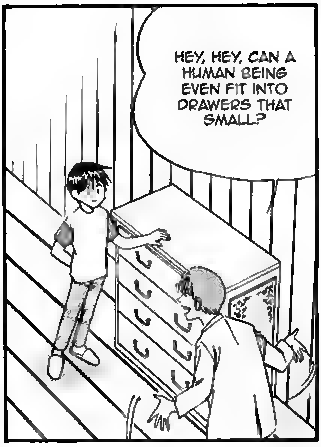

EH!?




INSIDE THIS CHEST OF DRAWERS


NO ONLY HALF A BODY WOULD FIT INTO DRAWERS THIS HIGH


Then it's impossible!

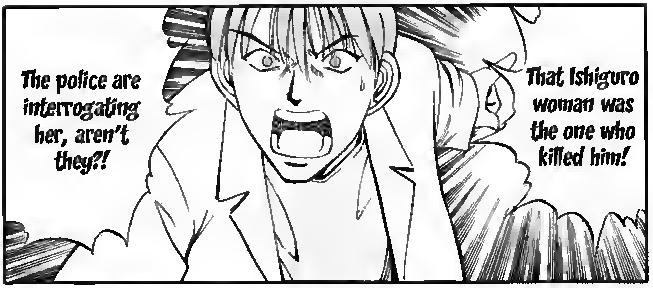

HEY, HEY, CAN A HUMAN BEING EVEN FIT INTO DRAWERS THAT SMALL?

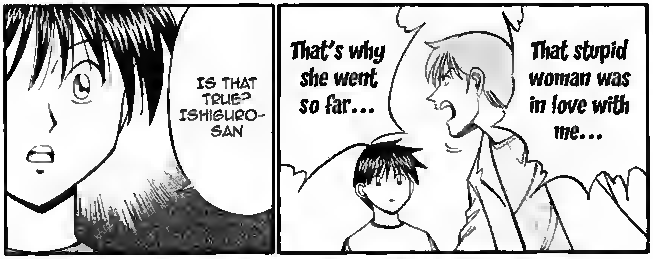
I THOUGHT IT WAS STRANGE FROM THE START. WHY WAS OKABE-SAN SHOVED INTO THE WELL LIKE THAT?
THEN I THOUGHT ABOUT IT
THE CRIMINAL MUST HAVE LEFT OKABE-SAN'S BODY LIKE THAT FOR A WHILE AFTER KILLING HIM
BUT BECAUSE OF RIGOR MORTIS* THE BODY WOULDN'T GO BACK TO NORMAL, SO HE PUT HIM INTO THE WELL TO HIDE THAT FACT
BUT YOU CAN'T HIDE A BODY IN THOSE DRAWERS
NO, MIZUHARA-SAN
IF YOU TAKE OUT THE SECOND DRAWER FROM THE BOTTOM...

*TL Note: Rigor mortis is one of the recognizable signs of death that is caused by a chemical change in the muscles after death, causing the limbs of the corpse to become stiff and difficult to move or manipulate

AND TURN IT UPSIDE DOWN, YOU CAN PUT SOMEONE INSIDE!
CLUNK
AAH!!

..AND THAT'S THE END OF MY PROOF
Y-YOU'RE WRONG!
YOU'RE MAKING THIS UP!


The police are interrogating her, aren't they?!
That Ishiguro woman was the one who killed him!


IS THAT TRUE? ISHIGURO-SAN
That's why she went so far...
That stupid woman was in love with me...

N-NO, IT'S NOT LIKE THAT
I JUST SAID THAT BECAUSE THIS BRAT WAS BEING SO STUBBORN...
I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING
YOU KNOW, DON'T YOU!?
YEAH! YOU TELL HIM! TELL HIM WHAT HAPPENED ON THE DAY OF THE MURDER...
RAISE

SMASH!

THE CELLO THAT SUPPORTED ME...
AAAH.
NOTHING'S EVER GOING TO SUPPORT YOU ANY MORE
LET'S GO
MY CHILD...
WHAT SHOULD I DO... I'M SHAKING AGAIN
THEY BOUGHT THIS FOR ME WHEN I WAS 7
I DIDN'T WANT THE HALF-SIZED KID'S CELLO, SO..

THE DISTORTED MELODY
QED

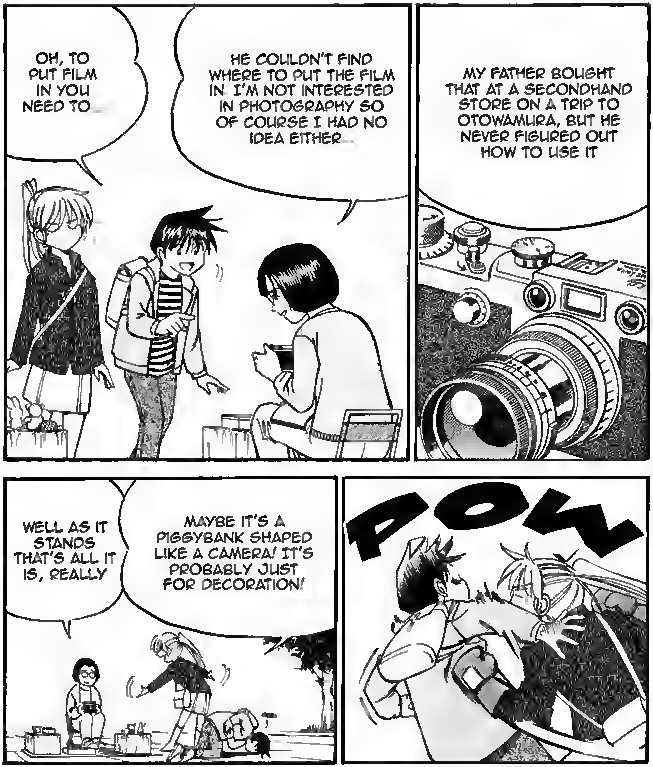
quod erat demonstrandum

光の残像

FLEA MARKET
DATE: XX OCTOBER 1999
WHAT A SIGHT, WHAT A SIGHT!
LOOK, TOUMA-KUN! THERE'S ALL KINDS OF THINGS ON DISPLAY!
CONGRATULATIONS!
10 YEN

OHH! I SEE! I'VE NEVER SEEN THIS BEFORE!
THEY'RE SELLING THE STUFF THEY DON'T USE OR DON'T NEED FOR CHEAP!
WRONG, DUMMY! IT'S A FLEA MARKET! FLEA MARKET!!
THWACK!
EVERYONE'S HERE TO AIR OUT THE BUGS FROM THEIR HOUSEHOLD STUFF, RIGHT?
SO YOU CAN TELL WHAT'S VALUABLE? YOU'RE QUITE THE CONNOISSEUR, MIZUHARA-SAN!
YOU CAN BUY SOME REALLY GOOD TREASURES FOR CHEAP AT PLACES LIKE THIS!
TUG
YOU'LL FIND THE VALUABLES AND I'LL BUY THEM! PUT THOSE BRAINS OF YOURS TO USE!
NO! I DON'T WANNA!
EH!?
ME? WHY SHOULD I? YOU'RE GOING TO TO DO IT!

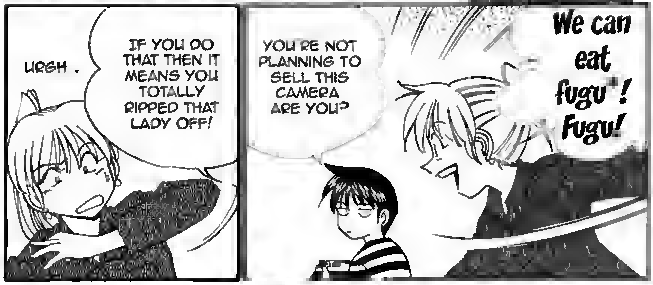
HUH?
YES, YES, YES
THAT'S A NICE ARGU-MENT
OKAY!? THE VALUE OF AN OBJECT IS SOMETHING EVERYONE HAS TO DECIDE FOR THEMSELVES
WHAT? IS THAT CAMERA VALUABLE?
D..DUNNO
EXCUSE ME!
M-MIZU-HARA-SAN!
OH, THIS?
IS THAT CAMERA USEABLE?


OH, TO PUT FILM IN YOU NEED TO...
HE COULDN'T FIND WHERE TO PUT THE FILM IN. I'M NOT INTERESTED IN PHOTOGRAPHY SO OF COURSE I HAD NO IDEA EITHER...
MY FATHER BOUGHT THAT AT A SECONDHAND STORE ON A TRIP TO OTOWAMURA, BUT HE NEVER FIGURED OUT HOW TO USE IT
WELL AS IT STANDS THAT'S ALL IT IS, REALLY
MAYBE IT'S A PIGGYBANK SHAPED LIKE A CAMERA! IT'S PROBABLY JUST FOR DECORATION!
POW
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS!

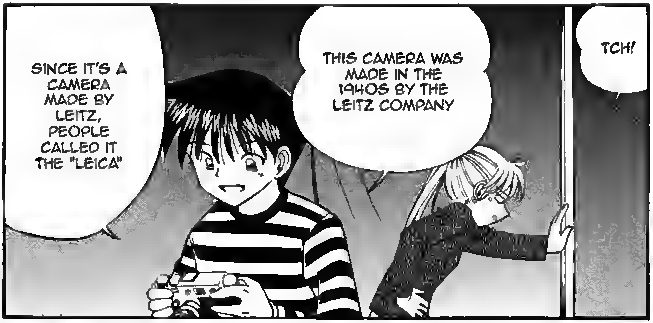
*TL Note. German camera brand (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leica_(camera)

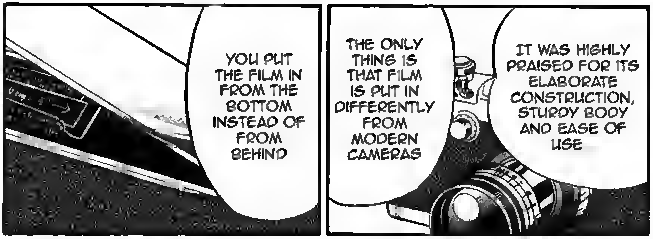
HE'S GOT A LOT OF STUFF AT HOME
YOU BOUGHT A LEICA IIIC FOR 100 YEN!
DARK ROOM IN USE
WELL YOU SAID THE VALUE OF AN OBJECT IS FOR EACH PERSON TO DECIDE, DIDN'T YOU?

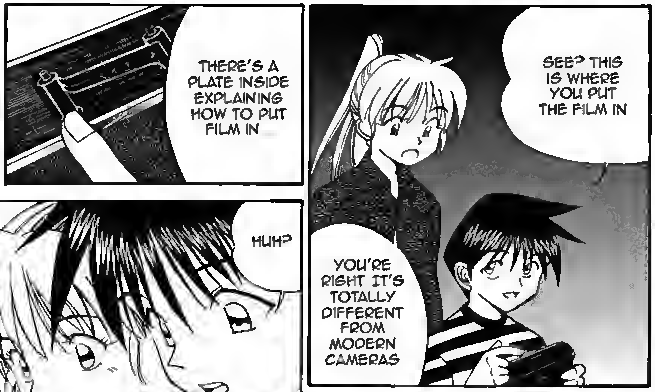
*TL Note. About $1000

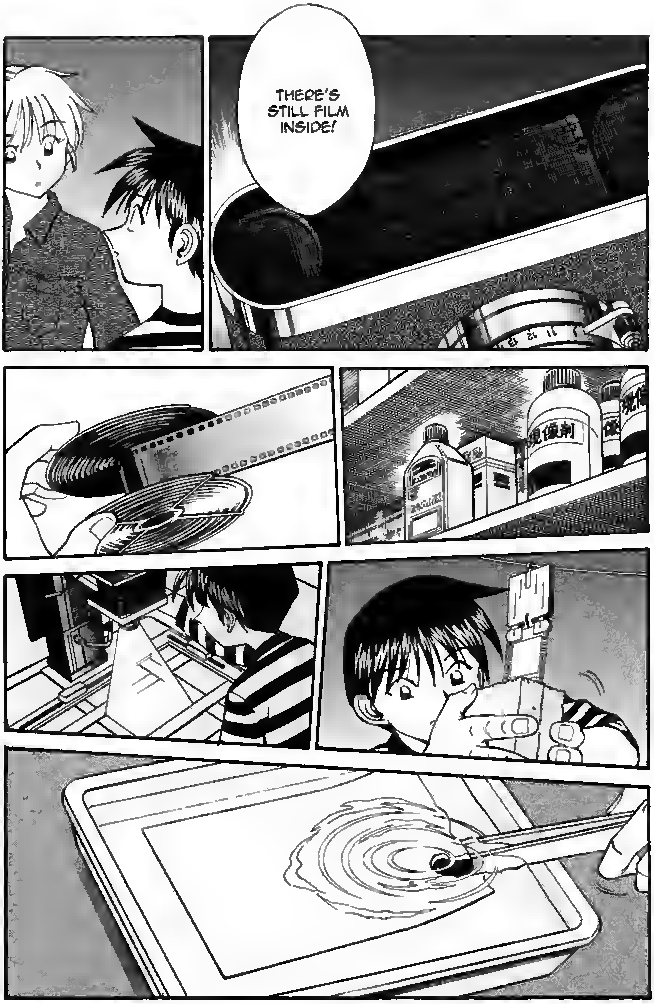

URGH .
IF YOU DO THAT THEN IT MEANS YOU TOTALLY RIPPED THAT LADY OFF!
YOU'RE NOT PLANNING TO SELL THIS CAMERA ARE YOU?
We can eat fugu*! Fugu!

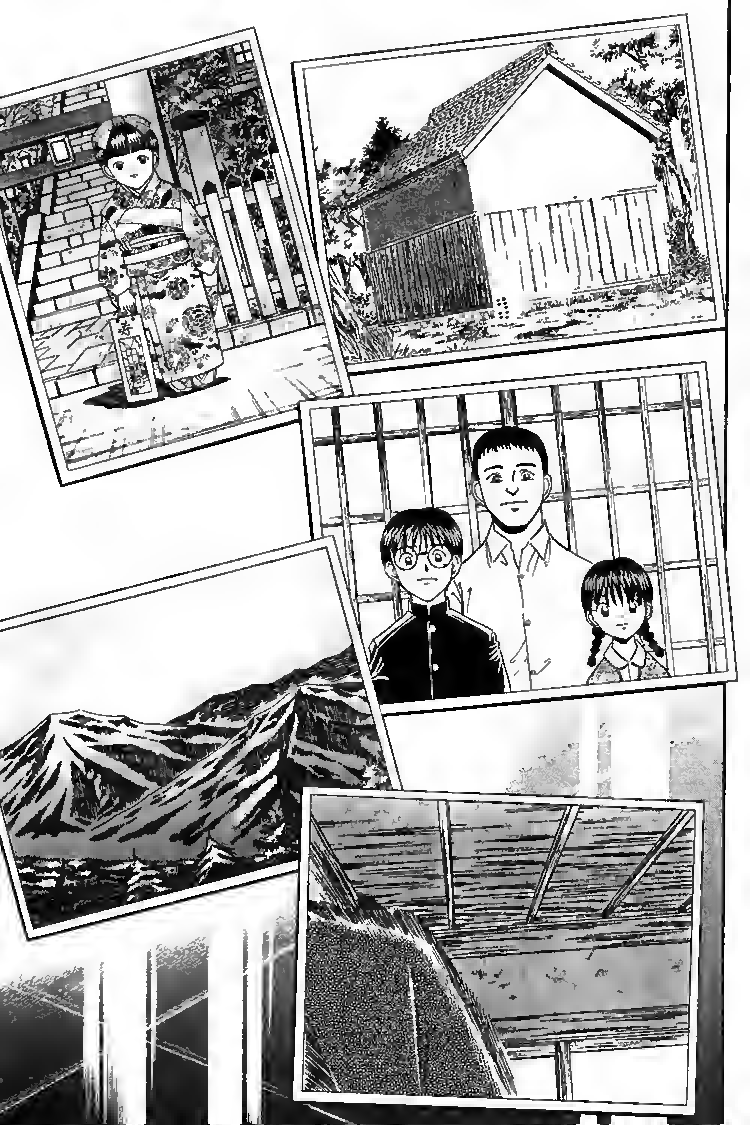
*TL Note. Fugu is the Japanese word for pufferfish and is also a Japanese dish prepared from the meat of pufferfish. Because pufferfish is lethally poisonous if prepared incorrectly, fugu has become one of the most celebrated and notorious dishes in Japanese cuisine


TCH!
THIS CAMERA WAS MADE IN THE 1940S BY THE LEITZ COMPANY
SINCE IT'S A CAMERA MADE BY LEITZ, PEOPLE CALLED IT THE "LEICA"

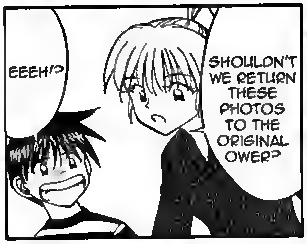

IT WAS HIGHLY PRAISED FOR ITS ELABORATE CONSTRUCTION, STURDY BODY AND EASE OF USE
THE ONLY THING IS THAT FILM IS PUT IN DIFFERENTLY FROM MODERN CAMERAS
YOU PUT THE FILM IN FROM THE BOTTOM INSTEAD OF FROM BEHIND

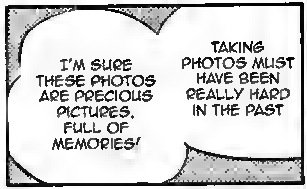

SEE? THIS IS WHERE YOU PUT THE FILM IN
THERE'S A PLATE INSIDE EXPLAINING HOW TO PUT FILM IN
YOU'RE RIGHT IT'S TOTALLY DIFFERENT FROM MODERN CAMERAS
HUH?


THERE'S STILL FILM INSIDE!

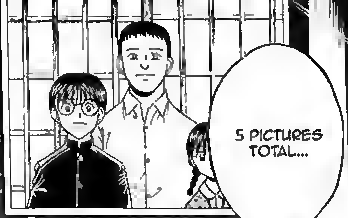


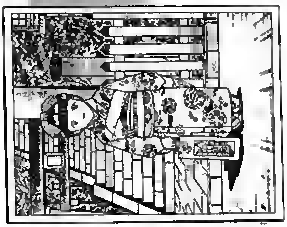
THE LAST PHOTO IS REALLY SHAKY

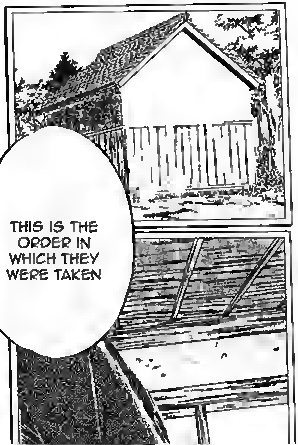

EEEH!?
SHOULDN'T WE RETURN THESE PHOTOS TO THE ORIGINAL OWER?


I'M SURE THESE PHOTOS ARE PRECIOUS PICTURES, FULL OF MEMORIES!
TAKING PHOTOS MUST HAVE BEEN REALLY HARD IN THE PAST

THAT DOESN'T MEAN WE HAVE TO GO ALL THE WAY..


5 PICTURES TOTAL...

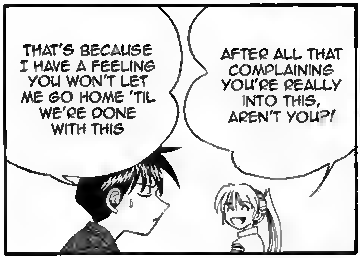



THIS IS THE ORDER IN WHICH THEY WERE TAKEN

THIS IS THE VILLAGE THE LADY AT THE FLEA MARKET MENTIONED
WE DIDN'T HAVE TO COME ALL THE WAY OUT HERE!
THAT MOUN-TAIN!
HEY! LOOK AT THAT!
DOESN'T IT LOOK LIKE THE ONE IN THE SECOND PHOTO?

YOU'RE RIGHT! YOU'RE SO SMART!
GUESS WE'LL HAVE TO TRY THE SECONDHAND STORE FIRST. THAT'S THE ONLY CLUE WE HAVE

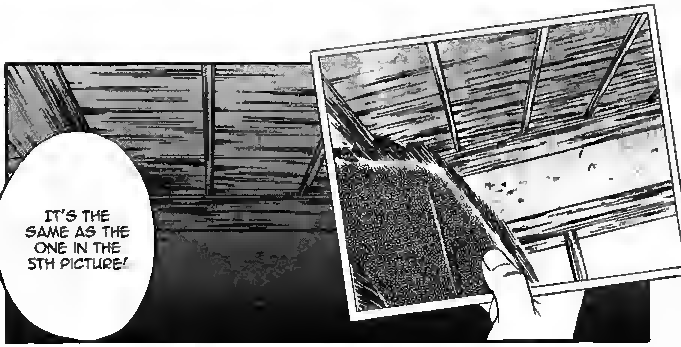
THEN I GUESS THE PERSON WHO TOOK THIS PHOTO LIVED IN THIS VILLAGE
YEAH BUT HOW ARE WE GOING TO FIND HIM?

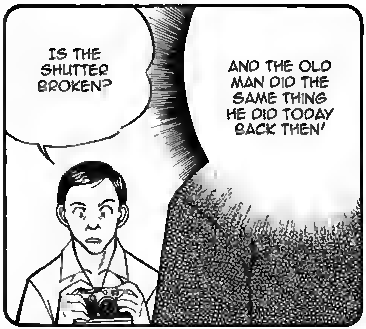

THAT'S BECAUSE I HAVE A FEELING YOU WON'T LET ME GO HOME 'TIL WE'RE DONE WITH THIS
AFTER ALL THAT COMPLAINING YOU'RE REALLY INTO THIS, AREN'T YOU?!

SECONDHAND STORE

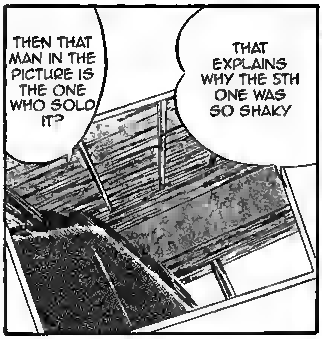
I'VE GOT LOTS WANT TO SEE THEM?
CAMERAS...
UMM... THAT'S NOT IT..
I OPENED THIS STORE RIGHT AFTER THE WAR SO I'VE EVEN GOT SOME RARE ONES
Stop fooling around!
DON'T SCARE AN OLD MAN LIKE THAT!
Gyaaah!
SQUEAK
LIKE THIS ONE!

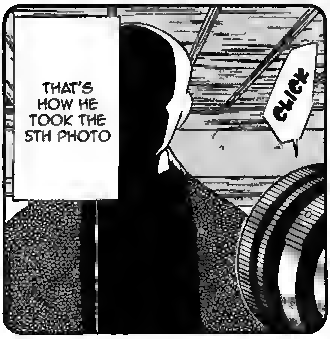
GOOD CAMERA IT CAME OUT AFTER THE WAR
AH, A LEICA IIIC, HUH?
YES WE WERE HOPING YOU COULD TELL US WHO YOU BOUGHT IT FROM
WHAT? A CAMERA I SOLD?
LOOKS LIKE THE SHUTTER'S BROKEN
CLICK
!!
LOOK AT THE CEILING!
WHAT'S UP?
?


IT'S THE SAME AS THE ONE IN THE 5TH PICTURE!

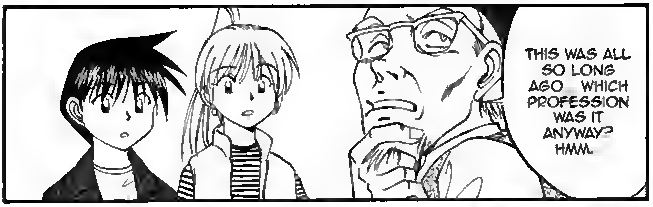

IS THE SHUTTER BROKEN?
AND THE OLD MAN DID THE SAME THING HE DID TODAY BACK THEN!

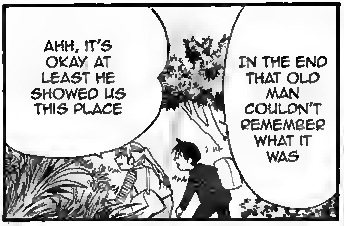
IT MEANS THE OWNER OF THE CAMERA SOLD IT TO THIS STORE...
YOU'RE RIGHT! WHAT DOES THIS MEAN!?

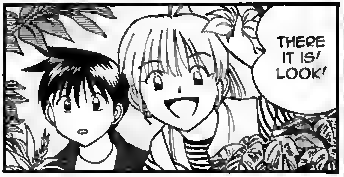

THEN THAT MAN IN THE PICTURE IS THE ONE WHO SOLD IT?
THAT EXPLAINS WHY THE 5TH ONE WAS SO SHAKY

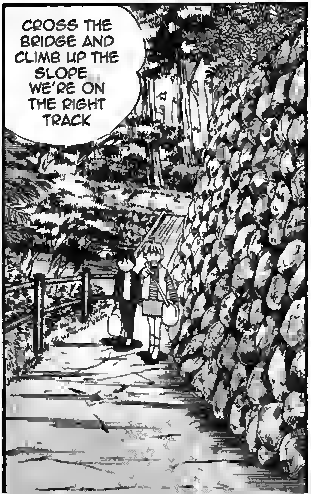

THAT'S HOW HE TOOK THE 5TH PHOTO
CLICK

THAT LOOKS LIKE A WORKMAN'S COAT. THAT'S ALL...
HM?
DOES THIS PICTURE LOOK FAMILIAR TO YOU?


THIS WAS ALL SO LONG AGO... WHICH PROFESSION WAS IT ANYWAY? HMM.


AHH, IT'S OKAY AT LEAST HE SHOWED US THIS PLACE
IN THE END THAT OLD MAN COULDN'T REMEMBER WHAT IT WAS


THERE IT IS! LOOK!


CROSS THE BRIDGE AND CLIMB UP THE SLOPE. WE'RE ON THE RIGHT TRACK

THE STORE-HOUSE IN THE 4TH PHOTO!
WHAT... THE WRITING'S SO BAD I CAN'T READ IT!
LOOK! NO ENTRY!
立入禁止
HOLD ON, MIZUHARA-SAN! YOU CAN'T!
IT'S SUR-PRISINGLY SMALL

TL Note Sign says - "No Entry"

DON'T ASK ME!
CRAP! WHAT'LL WE DO!?
GEH!
Hey! What are you kids doing there!?
Didn't you see the "No Entry" sign!?
N-NO, UMM...
THANK GOODNESS! WE'RE RESEARCHING THIS STOREHOUSE BUT NO ONE KNOWS ABOUT IT SO WE'RE STUCK!
WOW, AM I EVER GLAD TO SEE YOU! MR. POLICEMAN, YOU'RE A LOCAL AREN'T YOU?
HAHAHA WELL, I WAS BORN AND BRED HERE, AFTER ALL!
I BET THERE'S NOTHING YOU DON'T KNOW AROUND HERE, RIGHT?
YOU'VE BEEN PROTECTING THIS VILLAGE FOR SOOO LONG, MR. POLICEMEAN I'M SURE YOU'RE LIKE A WALKING ENCYCLOPEDIA! I CAN TELL JUST BY LOOKING AT YOU!

HMM...
NO
SO WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH THIS STOREHOUSE? WHY IT IS FENCED-IN WITH A NO ENTRY SIGN?
SO IT WAS USED AS A SANATORIUM*
HOWEVER AFTER THAT THE INFECTIOUS DISEASE KNOWN AS TUBERCULOSIS STARTED TO SPREAD
THIS STOREHOUSE WAS BUILT BY A WEALTHY LOCAL LANDOWNER BEFORE THE WAR. AT FIRST IT WAS USED TO STORE RICE AND FARMING TOOLS
THIS PLACE HAS A SAD HISTORY SO RIGHT NOW WE DON'T LET PEOPLE GO IN AND OUT AS THEY PLEASE
A LOT OF THEM DIED IN HERE
THAT'S WHY THOSE WHO GOT OR SPREAD THE DISEASE WERE TAKEN CARE OF IN THIS STOREHOUSE, FAR AWAY FROM THE OTHER VILLAGERS
THE MAJORITY OF PEOPLE WHO CAUGHT IT DIED
IT WAS AN ERA WHEN GOOD MEDICINES WERE HARD TO GET

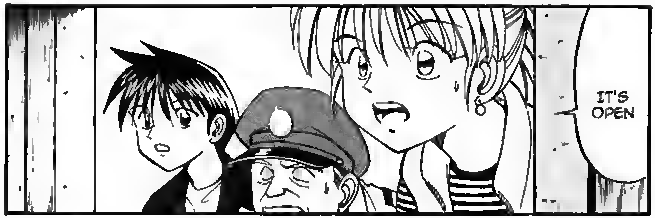
*TL Note: A sanatorium is a medical facility for long-term illness, most typically associated with treatment of tuberculosis (TB) before antibiotics were discovered.

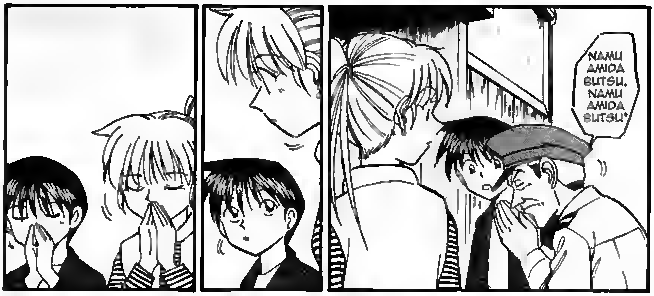
WE FOUND THIS PICTURE AND...
WELL THE THING IS...
WHY ARE YOU KIDS CHECKING THIS PLACE OUT?
Aah!
SLIP
OOPS..
OH NO! THE PHOTO WENT INSIDE!
AAAH!
GNGH
IT'S MY FAULT SO I'LL DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT!
DON'T BOTHER! THE KEY IS LOST, SO YOU CAN'T OPEN IT!
WHAT SHOULD WE DO? THE DOOR'S LOCKED!

Eeeh!?
N-NO! MY ARM'S STUCK!
HUH?
DID YOU GET IT?
Break the lock and open the door!
Ow ow ow ow ow!
LET'S PULL HIM OUT!
HERE GOES!
WHACK

CRICK
WHACK
WHACK
CRICK CRACK
WHACK
WHACK
BAM

*TL Note Buddhist sutra to pray for dead souls



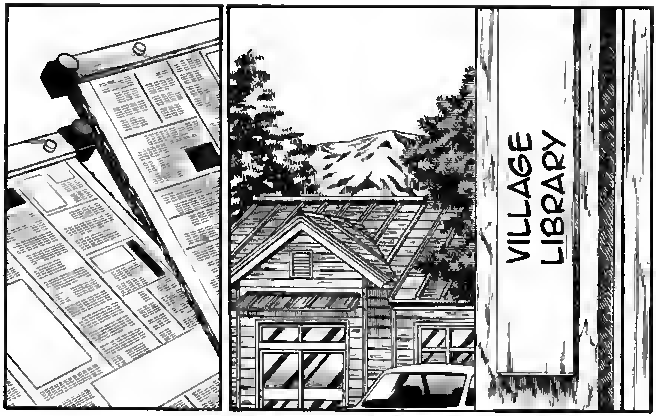


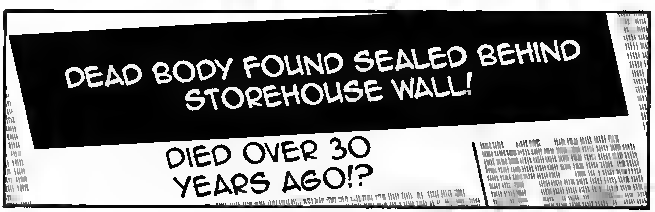
PROBABLY
THEY EVEN SHUT KIDS YOUNG ENOUGH TO BE PLAYING WITH BALLS IN HERE?
IT'S VERY SAD..
IT'S MUCH WHITER THAN THE OTHER WALLS
THE PLASTER ON THIS WALL HERE LOOKS LIKE IT WAS REDONE
AH YOU'RE RIGHT
FROM THIS CRACK HERE YOU CAN SEE THAT A NEW LAYER WAS ADDED

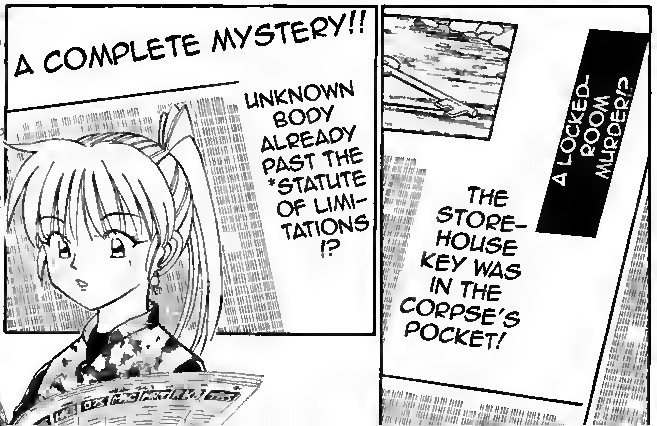
Look out! The wall's cracking!
CRUMBLE
CRUMBLE
CRUMBLE
CRACK
CRACK
AND WHY IS IT ON ONLY ONE WALL?
HMM? I NEVER HEARD ABOUT ANY REPLASTERING WORK...
KNOCK
KNOCK
KNOCK
THUD
THUD
THUD
THUD
RUMBLE
RUMBLE

GROOAR
Aaaaaah!
THAT WAS TOO CLOSE!
Aaah!

TONK
TINK
SLIP
W...WHAT ON EARTH...
....



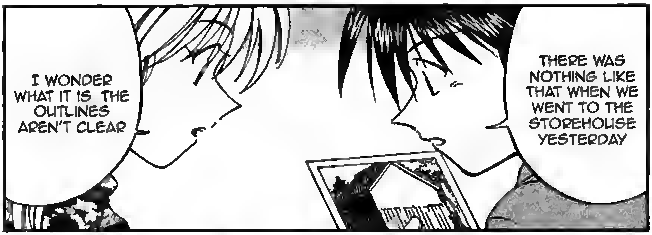



A COMPLETE MYSTERY!!
UNKNOWN BODY ALREADY PAST THE *STATUTE OF LIMI-TATIONS !?
A LOCKED-ROOM MURDER!?
THE STORE-HOUSE KEY WAS IN THE CORPSE'S POCKET!

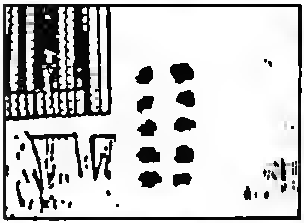
*TL Note
The maximum time after an event that legal proceedings based on that event may be initiated

YEAH, I GUESS THE CORPSE WAS SEALED IN THE WALL WITH THE ONLY KEY TO THE STOREHOUSE IN HIS POCKET, AFTER ALL
WHAT DO YOU THINK, TOUMA-KUN? IT'S A LOCKED-ROOM MURDER CASE FROM OVER 30 YEARS AGO!
AND THERE WAS NO OTHER EXIT APART FROM THE DOOR!
WE DIDN'T COME TO THIS VILLAGE TO SOLVE A MURDER CASE
?
OH NO YOU DON'T, MIZUHARA-SAN
I WONDER HOW...

OH COME ON, IT DOESN'T MATTER! THE POLICE WANT TO QUESTION US SO THEY'RE KEEPING US HERE A LITTLE LONGER... THEY EVEN GAVE US SOME MONEY SO WE MIGHT AS WELL..
IT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH US! I WANT TO GO HOME SOON!
WE CAME TO FIND WHO OWNS THESE PICTURES AND RETURN THEM!
AHH, YOU'RE SO UPTIGHT!
AND YOU'RE TOO CAREFREE, MIZUHARA-SAN
HM?
BUT... THERE'S SOMETHING BOTHERING ME ABOUT THIS PICTURE
LOOK AT THE PICTURE OF THE STORE-HOUSE
THESE TEN DOTS

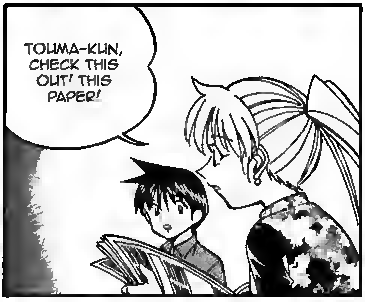

I WONDER WHAT IT IS. THE OUTLINES AREN'T CLEAR
THERE WAS NOTHING LIKE THAT WHEN WE WENT TO THE STOREHOUSE YESTERDAY

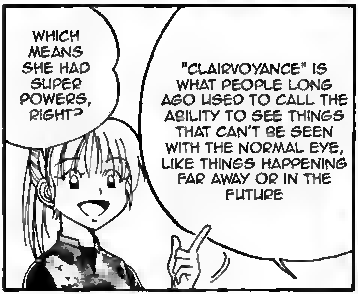
SO WHAT IS THIS!?



I THINK WHOEVER TOOK IT OPENED THE IRIS TOO WIDE SO THERE WAS TOO MUCH LIGHT AND THE PHOTO ENDED UP OVEREXPOSED
BUT THE OTHER PICTURES ARE FINE

LOOK! I LOOKED UP OLD PAPERS BECAUSE THEY SAID THE BODY WAS FROM 30 YEARS AGO .
WHAT DID YOU FIND, MIZUHARA-SAN?


TOUMA-KUN, CHECK THIS OUT! THIS PAPER!


WHICH MEANS SHE HAD SUPER POWERS, RIGHT?
"CLAIRVOYANCE" IS WHAT PEOPLE LONG AGO USED TO CALL THE ABILITY TO SEE THINGS THAT CAN'T BE SEEN WITH THE NORMAL EYE, LIKE THINGS HAPPENING FAR AWAY OR IN THE FUTURE

CAN'T YOU EXPLAIN IT USING SMALLER WORDS?
AN UNFATHOMABLE MYSTERY INEXPLICABLE BY MODERN SCIENCE HAS MATERIALIZED IN OTOWAMURA VILLAGE .."

*TL Note, The papers are written in older, harder to understand Japanese

THE HIGHLY-EFFECTIVE ANTIBIOTIC "STREPTOMYCIN" HAD BEEN DEVELOPED BY THEN BUT IT WAS TOO EXPENSIVE FOR COMMONERS TO AFFORD SO THE ONLY TREATMENT THEY HAD WAS TO LET HER REST QUIETLY
SHE HAD TUBERCULOSIS SO THEY PUT HER IN THE STOREHOUSE SO SHE WOULDN'T INFECT THE OTHERS
AND A SMALL FLOWER VASE HER MOTHER FILLED WITH FLOWERS FOR HER
THE ONLY THINGS SHE HAD WITH HER WERE A SMALL BALL...
THE GIRL'S NAME WAS KUWANO TAKI
HOW'S THE HORSE THAT FELL DOWN IN THE ROAD TODAY?
TAKI...! DID YOU GO OUTSIDE?
HOW'S YOUR COUGH TODAY?
HER MOTHER CAME EVERY MORNING, AFTERNOON AND EVENING TO TAKE CARE OF HER
IT'S OKAY I DIDN'T COUGH MUCH

I CAN SEE WHAT'S GOING ON OUTSIDE WITHOUT GOING THERE
IF I DID THAT I WOULDN'T GET BETTER AND THEN I WOULDN'T BE ALE TO PLAY OUTSIDE
UH-UH
DAD CAME HALFWAY WITH YOU, DIDN'T HE? WHY DIDN'T HE COME ALL THE WAY?
SHE KEPT TALKING ABOUT THINGS GOING ON OUTSIDE
THE VILLAGE ELDER WENT OUT IN A CAR TODAY, DIDN'T HE?
AT FIRST HER MOTHER THOUGHT TAKI WAS SNEAKING OUT, SO SHE LOCKED THE STOREHOUSE, BUT
HEY, THE REST OF THE STORY'S WRITTEN IN THIS ARTICLE!
WOW... THAT'S SO BIZARRE!
AS THIS WENT ON HER MOTHER AND THE VILLAGERS STARTED TO THINK SHE HAD CLAIRVOYANT POWERS

UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR STUDIES CLAIRVOYANT GIRL
"HER POWERS ARE REAL," HE CONCLUDES
A PROFESSOR FROM A CERTAIN UNIVERSITY TESTED HER ABILITIES AND CONCLUDED THAT HER POWERS WERE REAL
BUT THE ACADEMIC WORLD STRONGLY RESISTED HIS CLAIM
TO COUNTER THEIR ARGUMENTS, THE PROFESSOR PROMISED TO CARRY OUT PUBLIC EXPERIMENTS AROUND THE COUNTRY
HE ALSO GAVE HER THE ANTI-TUBERCULOSIS WONDER-DRUG STREPTOMYCIN

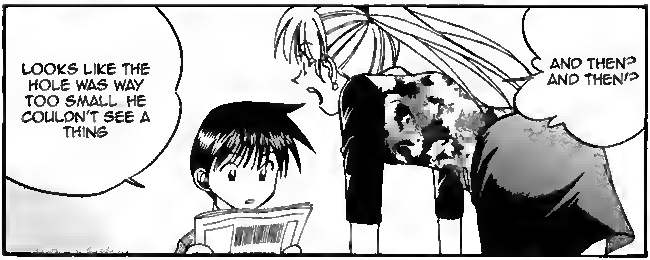
YES, BUT LOTS OF THINGS HAPPENED AFTER THAT
THANK GOODNESS! SO SHE GOT BETTER, RIGHT?
DOUBTS!? IS HER CLAIRVOYANCE A FRAUD!?
HUH?
HERE'S AN ARTICLE ABOUT WHAT HAPPNED NEXT
"TRANS-LATE"...? IT'S IN JAPA-NESE, YOU KNOW
NOPE! TRANS-LATE IT FOR ME!
CAN YOU READ IT?
HMM, LET'S SEE.
I PROMISE ALL MY READERS THAT I WILL CONTINUE INVESTIGAT-ING THIS CASE
REPORTER KIOA SHIGERU
THIS REPORTER NAMED "KIOA" SEEMS TO HAVE FOLLOWED HER ALL AROUND AND INVESTIGATED

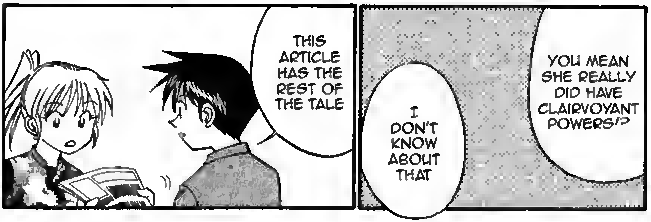
THANKS TO THE MEDICINE THE GIRL WAS HEALED OF TUBERCULOSIS. SHE TRAVELLED AROUND THE COUNTRY WITH THE PROFESSOR FOR THE PUBLIC EXPERIMENTS
FOR SOME PEASON THESE EXPERIMENTS WERE ONLY HELD OUTSIDE ON SUNNY DAYS
YOU'RE HOLDING AN APPLE
THE EXPERIMENT TOOK THE FORM OF THE CLAIRVOYANT GIRL BEING SHUT UP IN A BIG BOX, FROM WHERE SHE WOULD TELL PEOPLE WHAT WAS OUTSIDE
OOOOOH!
IT WAS LIKE A MAGIC SHOW
NOW YOU'RE HOLDING A HAT
THEY EVEN WENT SO FAR AS TO COLLECT AN ENTRANCE FEE FROM THE SPECTATORS

T-they're cheating!
SOMETHING HAPPENED
That experiment is fake!
She's gotta be peeking out of the hole! I saw it with these binoculars! I'm sure of it!!
There's a tiny hole on the side of the box!

I SEE
I DO SEE A SCRATCH OVER HERE
MUTTER
MUTTER
MUTTE
Let me check!
How do you know that!?
Yeah! Yeah!
BUT IT'S FAR TOO SMALL FOR ANYONE TO LOOK OUT OF
MUTTER
MUTTER
COME OUT TAKI
OKAY...

You don't have to tell me that!
ALRIGHT. PLEASE LOOK AS MUCH AS YOU WANT
HEY! DOES THAT GIRL LOOK LIKE A LIAR?
OOH...

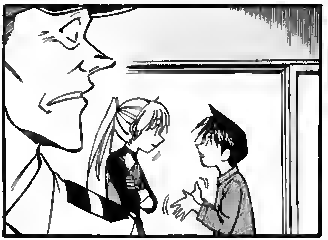

LOOKS LIKE THE HOLE WAS WAY TOO SMALL HE COULDN'T SEE A THING
AND THEN? AND THEN!?

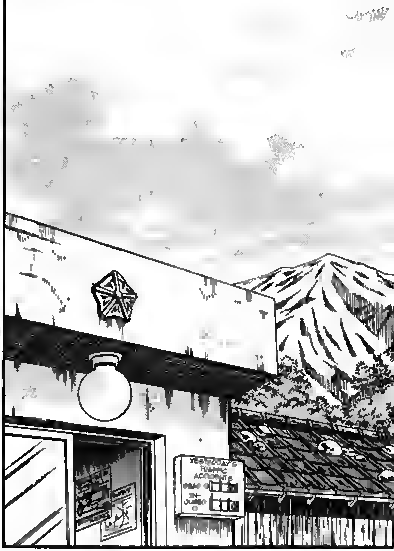

THIS ARTICLE HAS THE REST OF THE TALE
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT
YOU MEAN SHE REALLY DID HAVE CLAIRVOYANT POWERS!?

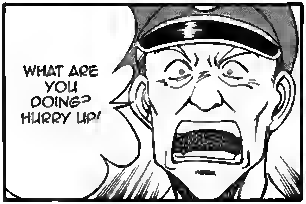
I DON'T KNOW THE STRANGE THING IS THAT THERE AREN'T ANY MORE ARTICLES BY REPORTER "KIOA" AFTER THIS ONE
What the heck is this!? Doesn't this mean it was a scam!?
CLAIRVOYANT GIGUS PROFESSOR DISPPEARS!?
ALONG WITH THE MONEY FROM THE EXPERI-MENTS! PROBABLY ABROAD
AHA! I FOUND YOU!
THERE YOU ARE! I'VE BEEN LOOK-ING ALL OVER FOR YOU GUYS!
?
COULD YOU COME WITH ME?

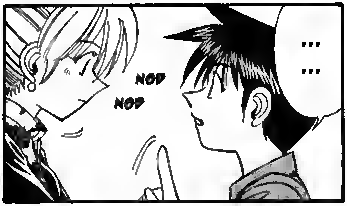
SINCE THE BODY IS UNKNOWN, THERE'S NO MOTIVE AND IT'S A "LOCKED-ROOM MURDER", THE PRESS IS ALL OVER IT!
THAT MURDER AND ABANDONMENT OF THE BODY CASE IS ALREADY PAST THE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS, BUT...
A BODY OID APPEAR SO I STILL HAVE TO WRITE UP A REPORT AND SEND IT TO THE POLICE
THE STORY ABOUT THE TWO OF YOU AND THOSE PHOTOGRAPHS EVEN MADE IT INTO THE PAPERS
THREE PEOPLE CLAIMING TO BE THE OWNERS TURNED UP TODAY
I CAN'T MAKE HEAD OR TAILS OF IT, THOUGH

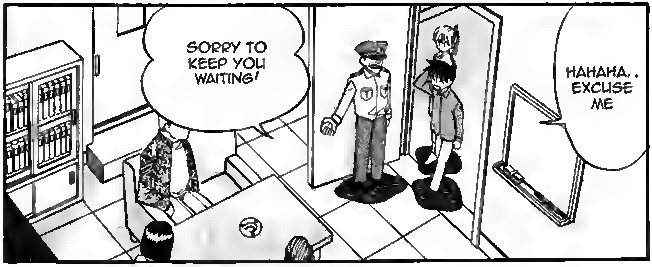
THEY'RE IN THIS ROOM .

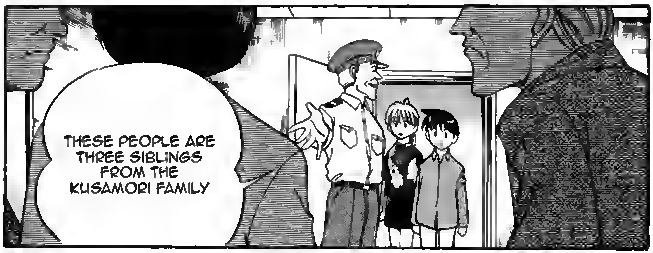


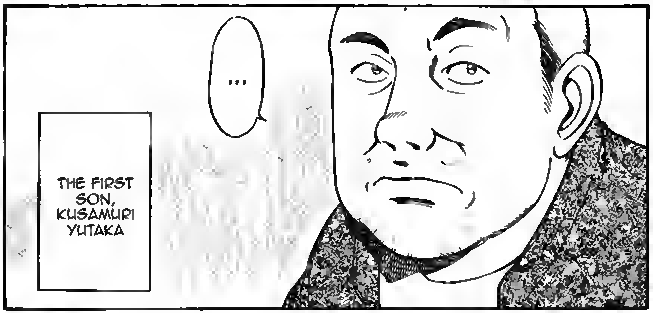


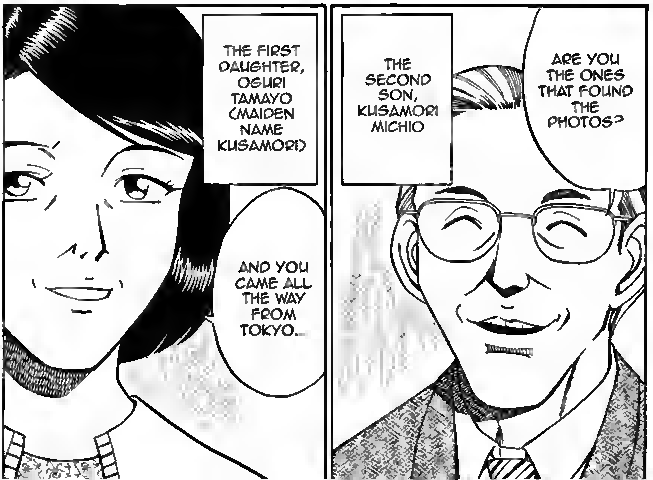

WHAT ARE YOU DOING? HURRY UP!


...
...
NOD
NOD

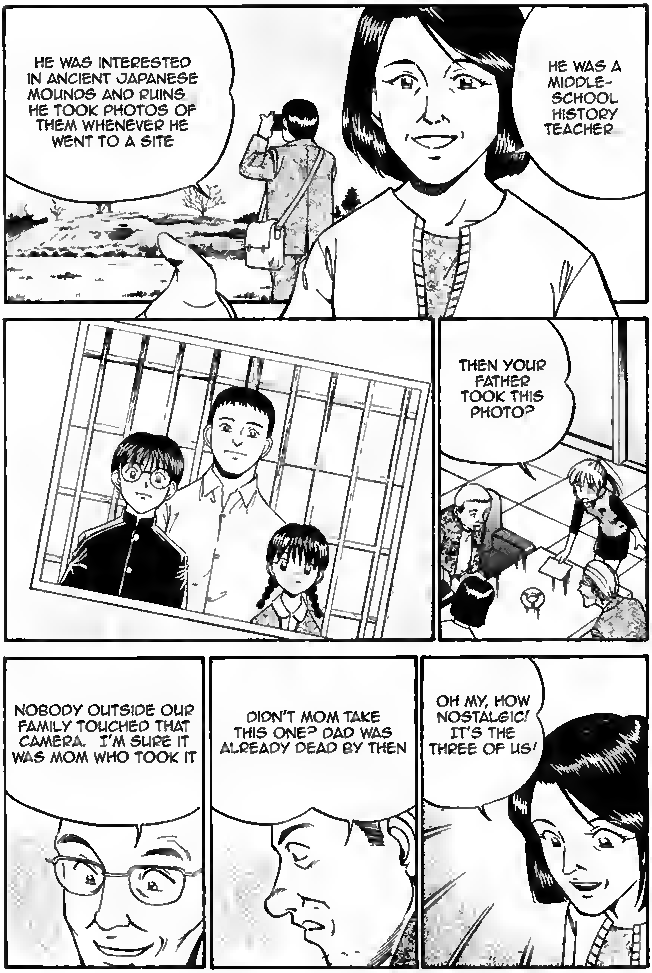

SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING!
HAHAHA.. EXCUSE ME


THESE PEOPLE ARE THREE SIBLINGS FROM THE KUSAMORI FAMILY


...
THE FIRST SON, KUSAMURI YUTAKA


THE FIRST DAUGHTER, OGURI TAMAYO (MAIDEN NAME KUSAMORI)
AND YOU CAME ALL THE WAY FROM TOKYO...
THE SECOND SON, KUSAMORI MICHIO
ARE YOU THE ONES THAT FOUND THE PHOTOS?

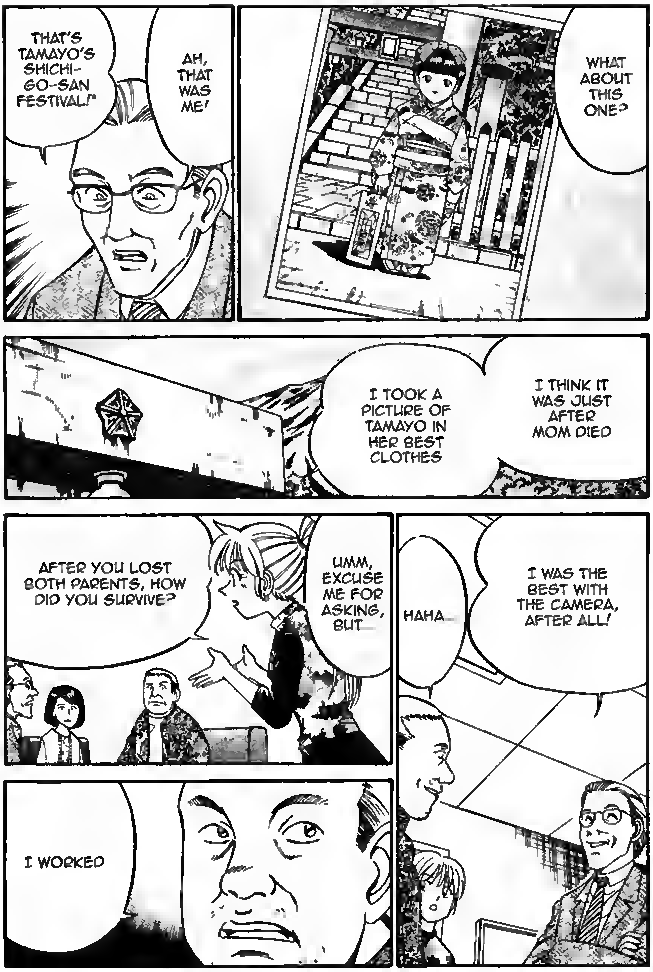
EH... UH...
HOW CAN WE TELL IF THEY'RE THE REAL OWNERS UNLESS WE ASK THEM SOME QUESTIONS FIRST?
HUH? JUST LIKE THAT?
NOW PLEASE RETURN THE PHOTOS
FIRSTLY, WHY DID YOU OWN A CAMERA?
WE'D LIKE TO ASK A FEW QUESTIONS BEFORE WE RETURN THE PICTURES .
OUR FATHER USED THAT CAMERA TO GATHER MATERIAL
CAMERAS WERE VERY EXPENSIVE BACK THEN DID YOU USE IT FOR WORK?
...


HE WAS INTERESTED IN ANCIENT JAPANESE MOUNDS AND RUINS HE TOOK PHOTOS OF THEM WHENEVER HE WENT TO A SITE
HE WAS A MIDDLE-SCHOOL HISTORY TEACHER
THEN YOUR FATHER TOOK THIS PHOTO?
NOBODY OUTSIDE OUR FAMILY TOUCHED THAT CAMERA. I'M SURE IT WAS MOM WHO TOOK IT
DIDN'T MOM TAKE THIS ONE? DAD WAS ALREADY DEAD BY THEN
OH MY, HOW NOSTALGIC! IT'S THE THREE OF US!

UMM...
YEAH! I REMEMBER THAT DAY...
AAAH, GEEZ! COME ON, MOM!
MICHIO! STOP WHINING AND GET OVER HERE!
GOOD IDEA. I'M SORRY
I'LL SET UP THE SHUTTER AND THE IRIS SO DON'T TOUCH THEM!
I GET IT. THANKS
LOOK THROUGH THIS WINDOW. WHEN YOU SEE THE TWO IMAGES OVERLAP PRESS THE SHUTTER!
Stop complaining!
BUT MOM IS...

YOU SAY THAT BUT YOU ALWAYS MESS UP DON'T YOU? YOU LIAR!
BECAUSE YOU'RE SUCH A LIAR ALL MY FRIENDS....
MAKE SURE YOU DON'T TOUCH ANYTHING ELSE!
YES, YES
THWOK
What was that for!?
DON'T UPSET MOM!
HAHAHA... DID THAT REALLY HAPPEN?
OH DEAR...

WHAT ABOUT THIS PICTURE OF THE MOUNTAIN?
AH! I TOOK THAT!
MOTHER'S ILLNESS HAD GOTTEN WORSE AND SHE COULDN'T LEAVE THE HOUSE...
I WANTED TO AT LEAST SHOW HER OUTDOOR PICTURES SO I TOOK THAT PHOTO
MOTHER HATED BEING SHUT UP QUIETLY IN HER ROOM...
YES, SHE DID


*TL Note A festival where children aged 7, 5 and 3 visit shrines
THAT'S TAMAYO'S SHICHI-GO-SAN FESTIVAL!
AH, THAT WAS ME!
WHAT ABOUT THIS ONE?
I TOOK A PICTURE OF TAMAYO IN HER BEST CLOTHES
I THINK IT WAS JUST AFTER MOM DIED
AFTER YOU LOST BOTH PARENTS, HOW DID YOU SURVIVE?
UMM, EXCUSE ME FOR ASKING, BUT...
HAHA...
I WAS THE BEST WITH THE CAMERA, AFTER ALL!
I WORKED

OUR BIG BROTHER HAD TO LEAVE SCHOOL FOR US
YES, THAT'S WHAT HAP-PENED
I STARTED TRAINING AS A PLASTERER AT THE AGE OF 12
WE LIVED OFF MY EARNINGS
EXCUSE ME, YUTAKA-SAN
IF YOU WERE A PLASTERER THEN YOU MUST HAVE WORN A WORKMAN'S COAT FOR YOUR JOB, RIGHT?*
ACTUALLY THERE'S A BLURRY WORKMAN'S COAT IN THE 5TH PICTURE
WE BELIEVE IT'S A PICTURE THE OLD MAN AT THE SECONDHAND STORE TOOK OF THE SELLER, BUT

*TL Note: workers in some traditional jobs in Japan wear livery coats

I HAD NO IDEA THERE WAS STILL FILM IN IT, THOUGH
I JUST NEEDED MONEY FOR MY BROTHER AND SISTER TO LIVE ON
AND ALSO I PROMISED MY MOTHER...
THAT'S RIGHT. I'M THE ONE WHO SOLD THE CAMERA
WORK YOUR HARDEST BY YOURSELF TO LIVE!
DO YOU UNDERSTAND? YOU MUST NEVER LIE OR TRICK ANYONE TO MAKE MONEY!
YES!
DO YOU UNDER-STAND?
OTHERWISE THERE WILL COME A TIME WHEN YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO FORGIVE YOURSELF...

BUT TO SELL MY FATHER'S TREASURED CAMERA
THAT'S WHY I HAD NO CHOICE
ONE FINAL QUES-TION
WHO TOOK THIS PICTURE?

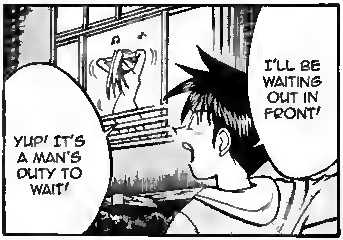
ME NEI-THER
I DON'T KNOW THIS ONE.
...
I WONDER WHO TOOK IT?
You know they're the real owners by now, don't you?
That's enough! Hurry up and return the pictures!
DON'T BE CRUEL, PLEASE GIVE THEM ALL BACK NOW!
YES, PLEASE THOSE PICTURES CONTAIN PRECIOUS MEMORIES

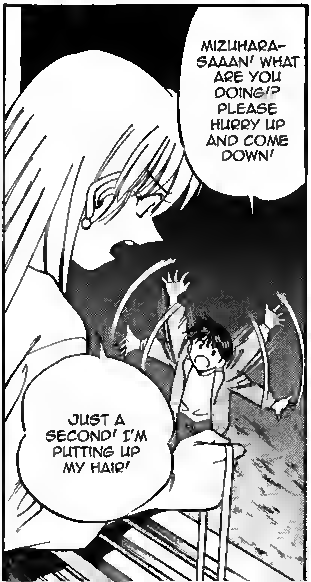
THEN, JUST ONE MORE THING
WHAT WAS YOUR MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME?
Hey! What does that have to do with the photos...?
HER MAIDEN NAME WAS "KUWANO" AND HER FIRST NAME WAS "TAKI"!

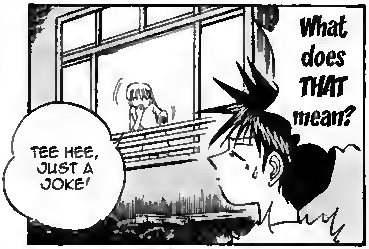
KUWANO TAKI'
CLAIRVOYANT GIRL
PLEASE RETURN OUR PHOTOS NOW
HAHAHA, WE'RE SORRY
I called them out here because you said you wanted to return their photos!
Geez, I can't believe you guys!
THEN WE'LL BE LEAVING NOW...
AH! I ALMOST FORGOT!
ANYWAY, YOU CAN GO HOME NOW
THANK YOU

SOMEONE FROM THE POLICE WILL BE COMING BY TOMORROW TO PICK UP THE PHOTO NEGATIVES
SO PLEASE BRING THE NEGATIVES HERE TOMORROW
ALL RIGHT

KAZEY-ANAGI INN


I'LL BE WAITING OUT IN FRONT!
YUP! IT'S A MAN'S DUTY TO WAIT!


MIZUHARA-SAAAN! WHAT ARE YOU DOING!? PLEASE HURRY UP AND COME DOWN!
JUST A SECOND! I'M PUTTING UP MY HAIR!


What does THAT mean?
TEE HEE, JUST A JOKE!

TL Note the sign in the picture below says - Reception

KECH
BOK
!!
Why youuv!
...
WHOOM
GRAB
TWIST

What d'you think you're doing!?
SHNIP
EEP!
YOU STILL WANNA KEEP GOING AFTER THAT?
HAH!
STAMP

HAND OVER THE NEGATIVES
EH?
MIZU-HARA-SAAAN!
TOUMA-KUN'S WEAKER THAN ME HE'LL BE HURT IF HE COMES OVER HERE!
CRAP!
WHERE ARE YOU, MIZU-HARA-SAAAN!

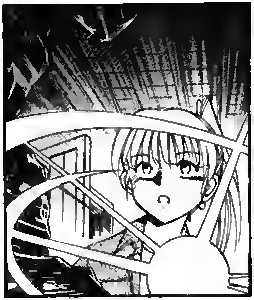
!
Wait!
EH!?
AH!
STAY BACK, DUMMY!
DASH

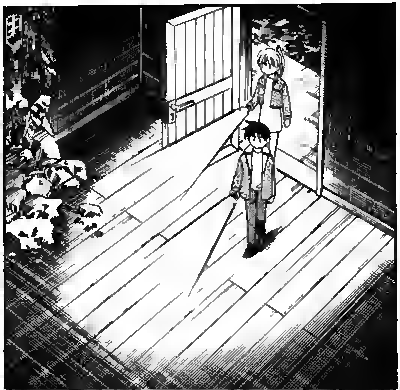
CALM DOWN! THIS ISN'T LIKE YOU!
OW OW OW...
SPLAT
DON'T CHASE HIM!
I GUESS NOT
HA HA...
YOU THINK YOU CAN BEAT A GUY WITH A KNIFE BAREHANDED?
HE WAS WORRIED ABOUT ME!
N...NO
MIZUHARA-SAN, YOU'RE NOT HURT, ARE YOU?
LET'S GO, THEN
H...H... THIS REALLY ISN'T LIKE HIM
HEHE...

YEAH, YOU'RE STILL A GIRL, MORE OR LESS
MAYBE I LOOK REALLY DELICATE?
I DON'T GET IT THOUGH...
WHY DID HE ATTACK ME AND THEN RUN AWAY WHEN HE SAW YOU?
MEN ARE STRONGER THAN WOMEN, IN GENERAL
"MORE OR LESS"?
NO MATTER HOW I THINK ABOUT IT YOU'RE WAY WEAKER THAN ME!
BUT THAT MASKED GUY SAID "HAND OVER THE NEGATIVES"... WHAT'S GOING ON?
AND WHAT LINKS ALL OF THEM IS...
PROB-ABLY
THE BODY IN THE STOREHOUSE AND THAT 5TH PHOTO AND THE FACT THAT I WAS ATTACKED ARE THEY ALL RELATED?

WITHIN THIS STOREHOUSE

EHIME

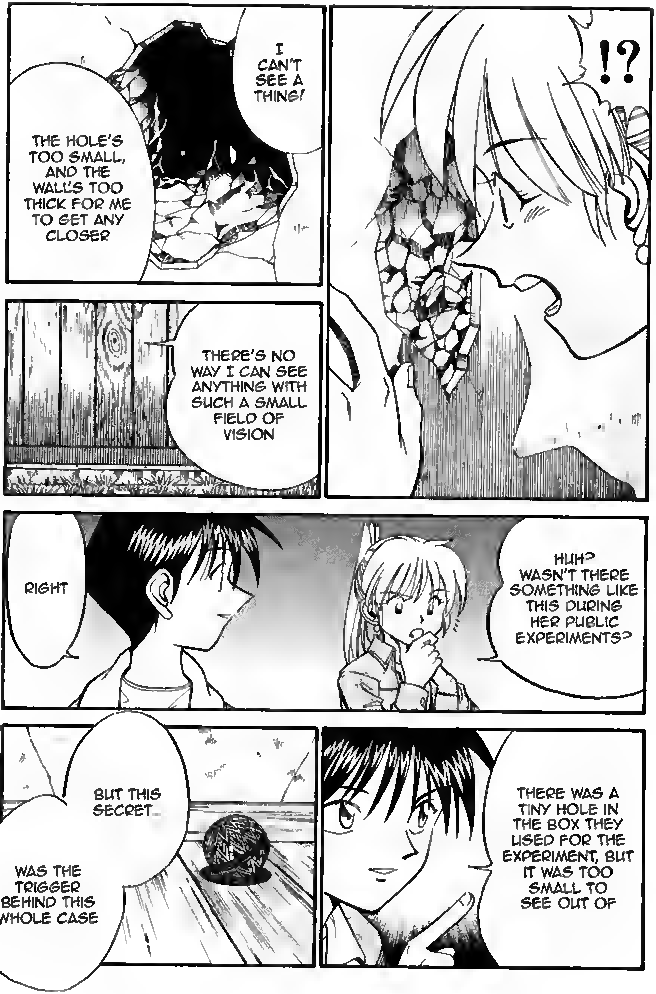




I WANT TO KNOW, AFTER THE MURDERER SEALED BOTH THE BODY AND THE KEY IN THE WALL...
HOW DID HE MANAGE TO LOCK THE DOOR FROM OUTSIDE?
HUH? TOUMA-KUN
THE POLICE DUG OUT THE BODY AND TOOK IT AWAY
!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
JUST CHECKING SOME-THING

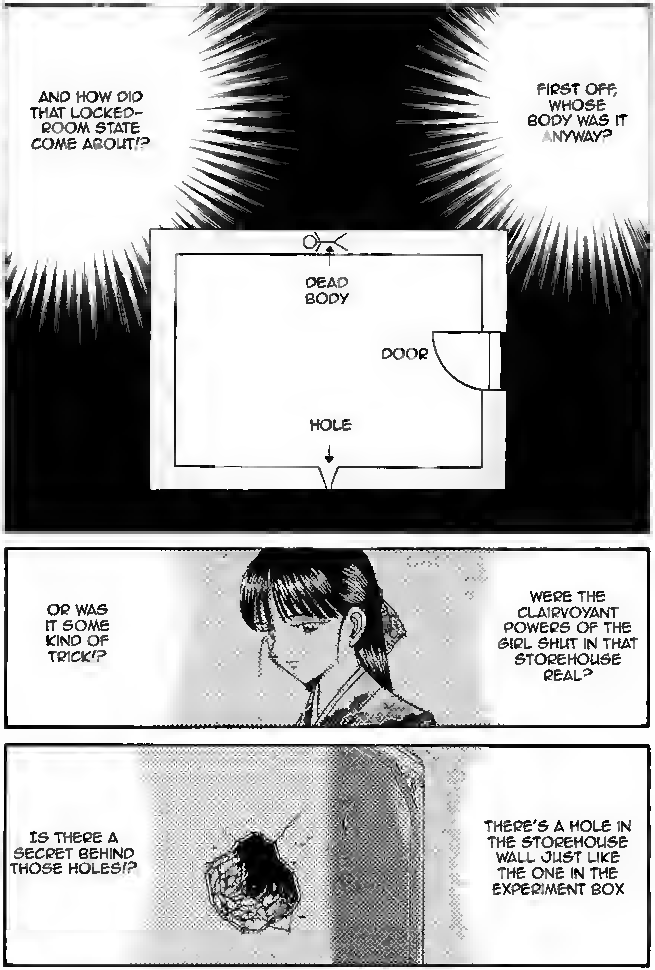
!
WHAT'S THAT?
O-OKAY
PLEASE SHINE THE LIGHT OVER THERE
A SPOT ON THIS WALL THAT WAS PLASTERED OVER
DONK
KA
EH?

There's a hole in the wall!
I get it now!
This is the secret behind her powers!
Kowano Taki looked outside from here and then told her mother about it!
AND SHE NORMALLY KEPT THE HOLE COVERED WITH THE FLOWER VASE!
THEN TRY LOOKING OUTSIDE YOURSELF

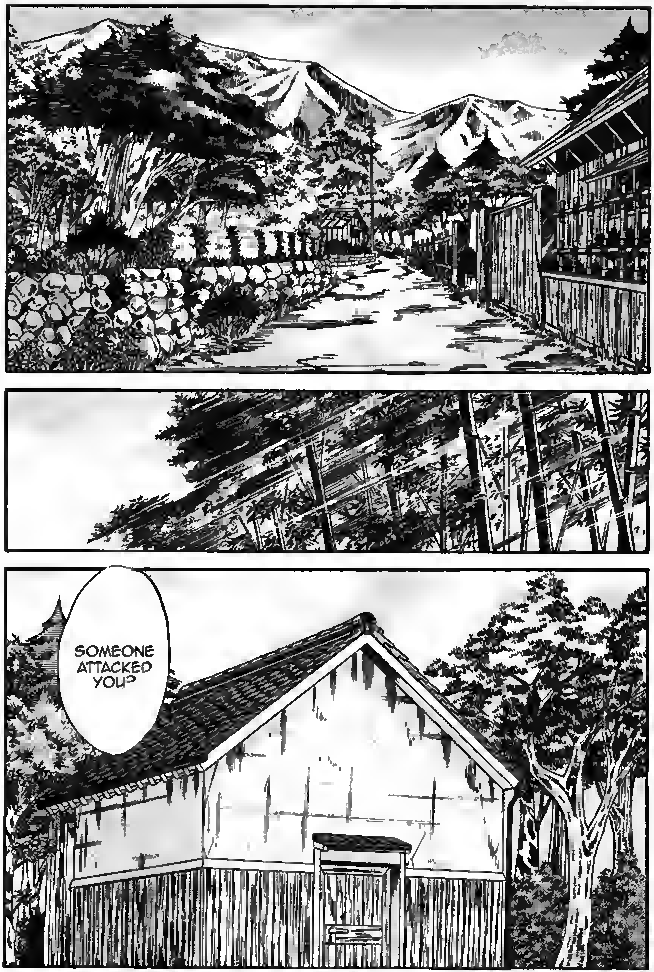

I CAN'T SEE A THING!
THE HOLE'S TOO SMALL, AND THE WALL'S TOO THICK FOR ME TO GET ANY CLOSER
!?
THERE'S NO WAY I CAN SEE ANYTHING WITH SUCH A SMALL FIELD OF VISION
RIGHT
HUH? WASN'T THERE SOMETHING LIKE THIS DURING HER PUBLIC EXPERIMENTS?
BUT THIS SECRET
WAS THE TRIGGER BEHIND THIS WHOLE CASE
THERE WAS A TINY HOLE IN THE BOX THEY USED FOR THE EXPERIMENT, BUT IT WAS TOO SMALL TO SEE OUT OF

KAZEY-ANAGI INN
LET'S TRY AND PUT EVERYTHING TOGETHER
WE CAME TO THIS VILLAGE AND FOUND THAT STOREHOUSE...
AND FOR SOME REASON ONLY ONE WALL HAD BEEN REPLASTERED

NO AMATEUR COULD HAVE DONE THAT KIND OF WORK
THEN IT MUST HAVE BEEN A PLAS-TERER...
...
WE FOUND A BODY KILLED OVER 30 YEARS AGO BEHIND THAT WALL


AND HOW DID THAT LOCKED-ROOM STATE COME ABOUT!?
FIRST OFF, WHOSE BODY WAS IT ANYWAY?
DEAD BODY
DOOR
HOLE
OR WAS IT SOME KIND OF TRICK!?
WERE THE CLAIRVOYANT POWERS OF THE GIRL SHUT IN THAT STOREHOUSE REAL?
IS THERE A SECRET BEHIND THOSE HOLES!?
THERE'S A HOLE IN THE STOREHOUSE WALL JUST LIKE THE ONE IN THE EXPERIMENT BOX

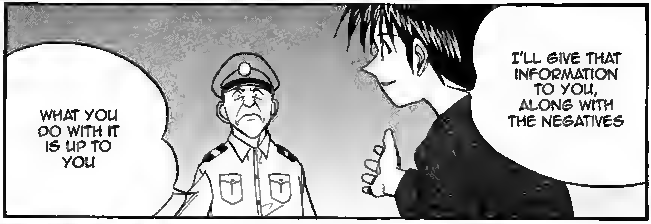
WHAT KIND OF SECRET ARE THEY HIDING!?
AND THE NEGATIVES OF THE 5 PHOTOS THAT THE MYSTERIOUS PERSON TRIED TO STEAL...
IN FACT, WHO TOOK THAT PICTURE AND WHY!?
WHAT ARE THOSE 10 BLACK DOTS IN THE CORNER OF THE 4TH PICTURE!?
THEN THE ANSWER I'VE COME UP WITH SHOULD BE CORRECT
IF ALL OF THOSE QUESTIONS ARE LINKED...
Q.E.D.
SCRATCH


SOMEONE ATTACKED YOU?

And tried to steal the photo negatives!?
NO— WE'RE NOT GOING TO FILE A POLICE REPORT
I bet it's related to the case...
Then quit hanging around here and file a police report!
YOU DO? WHO!?
AND I ALREADY HAVE A GOOD IDEA WHO IT WAS

SIMPLE. BECAUSE THAT PERSON KNEW THAT THE NEGATIVES WOULD BE HANDED OVER TO THE POLICE TODAY
WHY?
WHOEVER DID IT WENT ABOUT IT IN A REALLY ROUGH WAY... MEANING HE WAS IN A HURRY
You don't mean...!?
SO, WHO KNEW THAT AND ALSO KNEW WHAT WAS IN THE PHOTOS!?
WHAT REALLY HAPPENED HERE?
I'M GOING TO RE-TRACE IT AND EXPLAIN
THIS CASE HAS A VERY COMPLICATED BACKSTORY TO IT

WHO WAS KILLED HERE, BY WHOM, AND FOR WHAT REASON?
AND HOW DID THIS LOCKED-ROOM MYSTERY COME ABOUT?


I'LL GIVE THAT INFORMATION TO YOU, ALONG WITH THE NEGATIVES
WHAT YOU DO WITH IT IS UP TO YOU

I'M SURE YOU KNOW THERE WAS A GIRL IN THIS STOREHOUSE LONG AGO WHO WAS SAID TO HAVE CLAIRVOYANT POWERS
AH YEAH
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON, BUT FINE
S SURE

A BIG-SHOT PROF FROM SOMEWHERE EVEN SAID SHE WAS THE REAL THING...
I THINK HER NAME WAS...
SHE WAS PRETTY FAMOUS SO I REMEMBER IT THEY SAID SHE COULD SEE WHAT WAS GOING ON OUTSIDE FROM INSIDE THE STOREHOUSE
THAT'S RIGHT SHE WAS THE MOTHER OF THE KUSAMORI SIBLINGS
BUT KUWANO TAKI WAS...
HUH?
KUWANO TAKI...
WAS THE CLAIRVOYANT GIRL!
IN OTHER WORDS, THEIR MOTHER...

BUT WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH THIS CASE?
SHE WAS PROBABLY THINKING...
SITTING THERE HOLDING HER BALL LIKE THIS...
"SO I CAN GO PLAY OUTSIDE!"
"I WANNA GET WELL QUICKLY..."

AH...
AHAHA NOW THERE'S A TINY HOLE
THUNK
THEN THE DOOR OF FATE OPENED ON HER...
TOK
THIS WAS THE HOLE IN QUESTION
PLEASE LOOK AT THE WALL ON THE OTHER SIDE
IT'S SO SMALL I CAN BARELY SEE
YOU MEAN SHE LOOKED OUT THROUGH THE HOLE?
IT'S THIS HOLE THAT GAVE HER THOSE POWERS!

Aaah!!
Everything outside is upside down on the wall!

PINHOLE CAMERA!?

IT FOLLOWS THE PRINCIPLES OF THE PINHOLE CAMERA

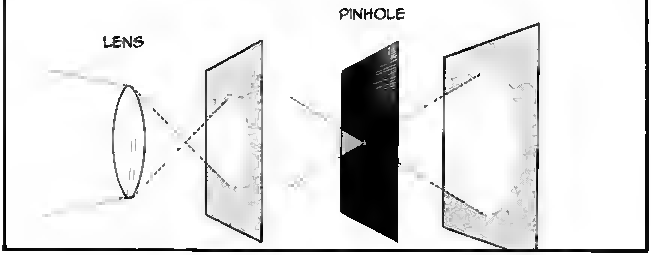
*TL Note Aristotle – Ancient Greek philosopher

*TL Note Bokushi – Ancient Chinese philosopher

A CAMERA THAT USES THIS PRINCIPLE IS KNOWN AS A PINHOLE CAMERA

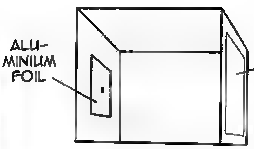
ARISTOTLE*, AND BOKUSHI* FROM CHINA KNEW ABOUT THIS PHENOMENON AS EARLY AS 400 B C

A TINY HOLE MADE WITH A PIN, THAT IS, A PINHOLE, HAS THE SAME ABILITY TO CREATE IMAGES AS A LENS DOES



IN SHORT, KUWANO TAKI'S CLAIRVOYANT POWERS RELIED ON THIS PINHOLE CAMERA!

MAKE TWO HOLES IN AN EMPTY BOX. IF YOU PUT ALUMINIUM FOIL WITH A HOLE IN IT ONE SIDE AND THEN PUT TRACING PAPER ON THE OTHER SIDE YOU'LL UNDERSTAND HOW IT WORKS SOON ENOUGH

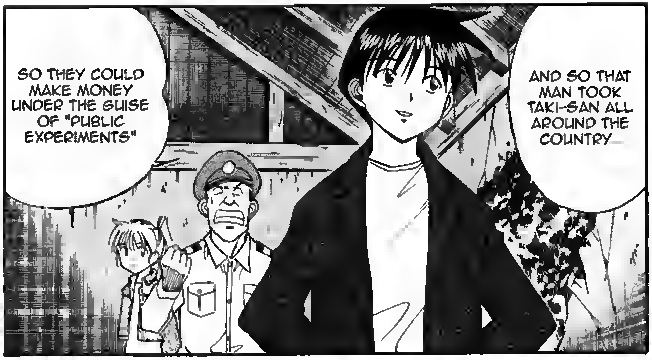


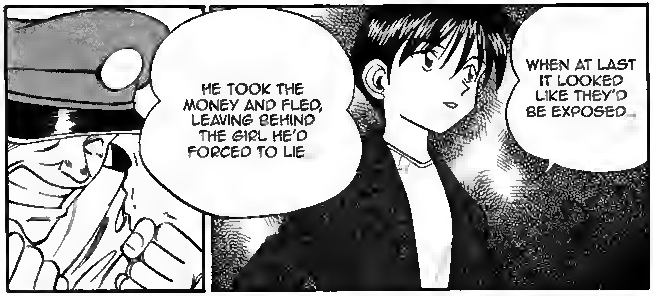
I DON'T KNOW...
T-then her clairvoyant powers were fake and she was just lying!?
HMM..
H
ALL SHE EVER DID WAS TALK ABOUT WHAT SHE SAW OUTSIDE
ALL I KNOW IS, LOOKING AT THE PAPERS OF THE TIME THE ONES MAKING A FUSS ABOUT "CLAIRVOYANCE" WERE THE ADULTS
WHAT DO YOU THINK SHE MUST HAVE THOUGHT WHEN SHE SAW THE IMAGES ON THE WALL?
MR PO-LICE-MAN..
S-but what about the public experiments!? She was definitely lying there!
I bet she was working with that university professor to make money...
H-HOW WOULD I .
HUH..?

AND BESIDE HER WERE IMAGES OF SUNLIGHT ROADS, PEOPLE COMING AND GOING, TREES SWAYING IN THE WIND
LYING ON HER SIDE IN THAT DARK ROOM, UNABLE TO GO OUT
I WANT TO GO OUT...
THAT MAN APPEARED
AND THEN...
CREAK

I SEE! A PINHOLE CAMERA, HUH?
THAT PROFESSOR LEARNED THE SECRET BEHIND HER CLAIRVOYANT POWERS
OHO...
I SEE PICTURES THERE, THAT'S ALL. I DON'T HAVE ANY SPECIAL POWERS...
HUH?
WE COULD MAKE MONEY OFF THIS!
YOUR POWERS ARE AMAZING!
NO, NO!
BUT LYING IS BAD
IF WE KEEP SAYING YOU'RE CLAIRVOYANT THERE'LL BE LOTS OF PEOPLE WHO WOULD PAY TO SEE YOU!

EHP
DON'T YOU WANT TO GET WELL, LITTLE MISS?
...
THERE'S A MEDICINE IN AMERICA THAT CAN CURE TUBERCULOSIS. IT'S CALLED STREPTOMYCIN... IT'S VERY EXPENSIVE BUT I COULD GET IT
I'LL GIVE YOU THE MEDICINE!
IF YOU DO WHAT I TELL YOU...
WHAT DO YOU SAY?

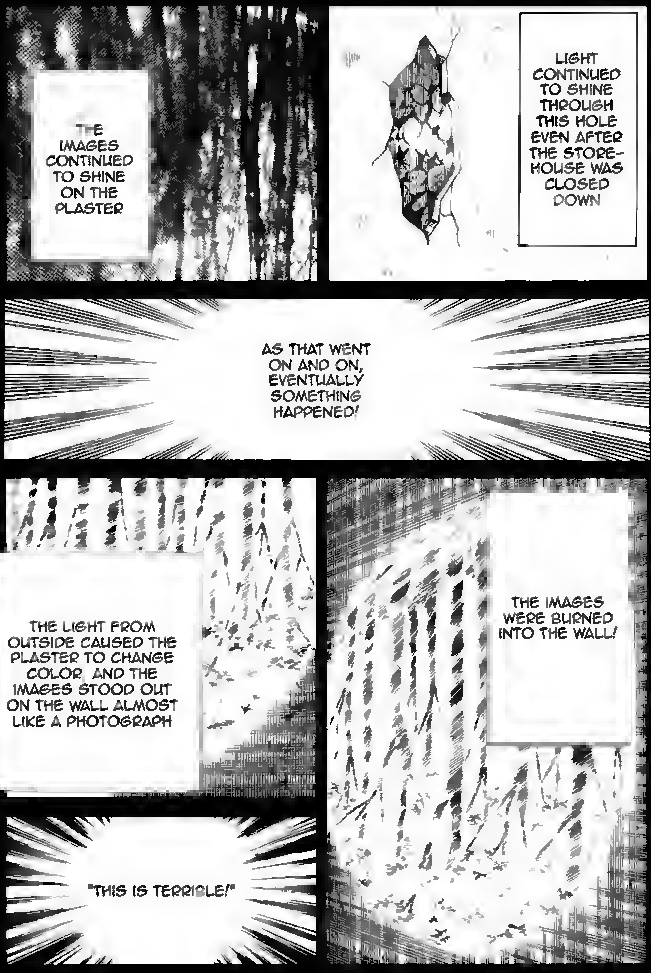

SO THEY COULD MAKE MONEY UNDER THE GUISE OF "PUBLIC EXPERIMENTS"
AND SO THAT MAN TOOK TAKI-SAN ALL AROUND THE COUNTRY...


HE TOOK THE MONEY AND FLED, LEAVING BEHIND THE GIRL HE'D FORCED TO LIE...
WHEN AT LAST IT LOOKED LIKE THEY'D BE EXPOSED...

ALL OF THIS HAPPENED OVER 40 YEARS AGO
I'm going to arrest that bastard!
Unforgivable!

YES... LONG, LONG AGO
YEAH
YO, MICHIO GOING BACK WITH THIS TRAIN TOO?
I SEE...
"I'M SORRY," SHE SAID
SHE LEFT ON THE FIRST TRAIN SHE CALLED ME THIS MORNING
WHAT ABOUT TAMAYO?

HOW DID THAT BODY GET SEALED UP IN THE WALL!?
SO WHAT ABOUT THE LOCKED-ROOM MURDER CASE?
HOW ON EARTH DID THAT HAPPEN!?
THE DOOR WAS LOCKED, BUT THE BODY ENDED UP IN THE WALL WITH THE KEY IN ITS POCKET
LONG AGO THE PRINCIPLES OF A PINHOLE CAMERA LED TO A CLAIRVOYANT GIRL IN THIS ROOM
IT JUST CAME ABOUT!
THIS SEALED ROOM WASN'T INTENTIONALLY CREATED


THE IMAGES CONTINUED TO SHINE ON THE PLASTER
LIGHT CONTINUED TO SHINE THROUGH THIS HOLE EVEN AFTER THE STORE-HOUSE WAS CLOSED DOWN
AS THAT WENT ON AND ON, EVENTUALLY SOMETHING HAPPENED!
THE LIGHT FROM OUTSIDE CAUSED THE PLASTER TO CHANGE COLOR, AND THE IMAGES STOOD OUT ON THE WALL ALMOST LIKE A PHOTOGRAPH
THE IMAGES WERE BURNED INTO THE WALL!
"THIS IS TERRIBLE!"

HE HAD PROBABLY HEARD THE SECRET BEHIND THE CLAIRVOYANCE FROM HIS MOTHER...
THAT'S WHAT SOMEONE THOUGHT...
HE USED THE PLASTERING SKILLS HE HAD LEARNED...
AND SO IN ORDER TO PROTECT HIS MOTHER'S SECRET...
TO REPLASTER THE WALL AND COVER UP THE BURNED-IN IMAGES

PLAS-TERING SKILLS? YOU DON'T MEAN...
I DIDN'T CARE HOW I DID IT...
THE ONLY THING I WAS THINKING ABOUT BACK THEN WAS PROTECTING MOM'S SECRET
HAHAHA.. I SAID SOME HORRIBLE THINGS TO MOM..
OVER ONE SINGLE LIE SHE TOLD
I DIDN'T WANT US TO KEEP SUFFER-ING
BECAUSE YOU'RE SUCH A LIAR ALL MY FRIENDS.

...
IF I COULD I'D KNEEL DOWN IN FRONT OF HER AND APOLOGIZE
HE HAD NO CHOICE
I DON'T GET IT! WHY DID YUTAKA HAVE TO REPLASTER THAT WALL IN A HURRY?
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN? THE CLAIRVOYANT GIRL EVEN MADE IT INTO THE PAPERS
NOBODY HAD BEEN HERE IN YEARS
AND THERE WAS A REPORTER INVESTIGATING THE MATTER
HIS NAME WAS KIOA SHIGERU

LOOK AT THE 4TH PICTURE OF THE STOREHOUSE. THERE ARE 4 BLACK DOTS HERE
THEN THERE'S THIS PICTURE
THIS PICTURE WAS TAKEN WITH THE IRIS OPEN TOO WIDE
I BLEW UP THAT PART OF THE PHOTO
SO IF I DRAW IN THE OUTLINE WITH A MARKER LIKE THIS...
MEANING THE OUTLINE WAS ERASED BY THE LIGHT
SQUIK
Aah!

THIS WAS PROBABLY A GRAVE MARKER
The reporter's name!?
Kida!?*
*TL Note: The symbols read kida in Japanese
THE BODY BEHIND THE WALL...
WAS THE MAN WHO TRACKED DOWN THE SECRET BEHIND KUWANO TAKI'S CLAIRVOYANCE
G-grave marker!?

THAT IS, THE NEWSPAPER REPORTER...
REPORTER KIDA SHIGERU
NAMED KIDA!
WHILE THE OLDER BROTHER YUTAKA-SAN RUSHED TO ERASE THE IMAGES ON THE WALL...
IT'S LIKELY THAT HE CAME TO THIS VILLAGE TO INVESTIGATE THE SECRET BEHIND THE CLAIRVOYANCE
THE OTHER ONE...
HEHE... ONCE I CHECK OUT THIS STORE-HOUSE...

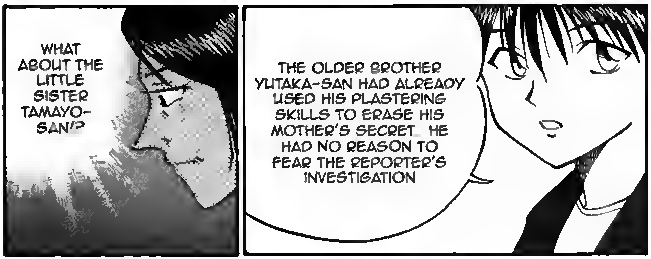
KILLED THE REPORTER
HE REMOVED THE BOARDS ON THE OUTSIDE OF THE STORE HOUSE...
AND THEN IN ORDER TO HIDE THE BODY...
DUG INTO THE EARTHERN WALL...
AND HID THE BODY IN THE WALL FROM THE OUTSIDE
THEN HE FILLED IN THE EARTHEN WALL AGAIN

HOWEVER THE KEY TO THE STOREHOUSE WAS STILL IN KIDA'S POCKET
AFTER THAT HE REPLACED THE BOARDS
AND THE MARKS FROM YUTAKA-SAN'S REPLASTERING OF THE INSIDE ARE STILL THERE...
HE PROBABLY THOUGHT THAT NOBODY WOULD PASS NEARBY
You're saying the body was put in the wall from ouside and not from inside!?
EXACTLY
THAT'S HOW THIS LOCKED-ROOM MYSTERY CAME ABOUT!
AND THAT'S HOW A CORPSE WITH THE KEY TO THE STOREHOUSE ENDED UP SEALED IN THE WALL WITH THE KEY STILL IN HIS POCKET

OUTSIDE THE STOREHOUSE...
THAT CHILD PUT UP A GRAVE MARKER AT THE SPOT WHERE SOMEONE HAD DIED
AND THE THIRD CHILD SAW THE WHOLE THING
AND IMITATED THE WAY THEIR FATHER HAD TAKEN PICTURES OF OLD TOMBS AND OLD GRAVES IN RUINS
CLICK
THEN THAT CHILD TOOK THE CAMERA..
EH!? "SHE"..?
THAT'S HOW THE 4TH PICTURE WAS TAKEN
BUT THE 4TH PICTURE WAS OVEREXPOSED
THE PICTURES TAKEN BY THE OLDER TWO KUSAMORI SIBLINGS CAME OUT PERFECTLY
BUT SINCE SHE WAS STILL YOUNG THEN SHE PROBABLY DIDN'T KNOW WHAT SHE WAS DOING

AAH!
NOBODY OUTSIDE THE KUSAMORI FAMILY TOUCHED THAT CAMERA UNTIL THE 5TH PICTURE WAS TAKEN
SO NATURALLY THE 4TH PHOTO MUST HAVE BEEN TAKEN BY THE YOUNGER SISTER TAMAYO-SAN
TAMAYO-SAN MUST HAVE REMEMBERED WHAT THAT PICTURE STOOD FOR!
"I HAVE TO GET IT BACK!"
"THE PHOTO AND THE NEGATIVE!"
WHICH MEANS IT WAS TAMAYO-SAN WHO ATTACKED MIZUHARA-SAN!
THAT'S WHY PSYCHOLOGICALLY INSTEAD OF ATTACKING ME, A GUY, SHE DECIDED TO TARGET THE GIRL INSTEAD

T-then who was it who killed Kida and put him in the wall!?

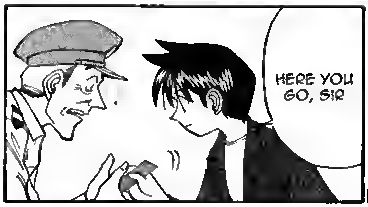

WHAT ABOUT THE LITTLE SISTER TAMAYO-SAN!?
THE OLDER BROTHER YUTAKA-SAN HAD ALREADY USED HIS PLASTERING SKILLS TO ERASE HIS MOTHER'S SECRET. HE HAD NO REASON TO FEAR THE REPORTER'S INVESTIGATION

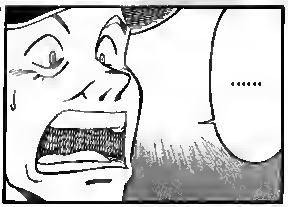
ESPECIALLY SINCE SHE WAS YOUNG ENOUGH TO TAKE THAT KIND OF PICTURE WITHOUT KNOWING WHAT SHE WAS DOING
A CHILD AS SMALL AS SHE MUST HAVE BEEN COULD NEVER HAVE DONE THAT

WHO LOVED HIS MOTHER WITH ALL HIS HEART...
WHOSE MOTHER HAD TOLD HIM THE THE SECRET OF THE STORE-HOUSE
AND...
SO THE LAST PERSON...
WHO TRIED TO HIDE THE SECRET BEHIND THE CLAIRVOY-ANCE...

MICHIO!
WHAT'S THE MATTER? I KEEP CALLING YOU BUT YOU'RE COMPLETELY SPACED OUT!
UH... NOTHING
MICHIO
YOU KEEP THIS ONE
THAT WOULD BE BEST
I SUPPOSE
THANKS

AND THAT'S THE END OF MY PROOF
THE MURDERER COULD ONLY HAVE BEEN KUSAMORI MICHIO


HERE YOU GO, SIR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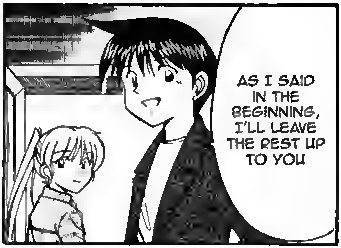
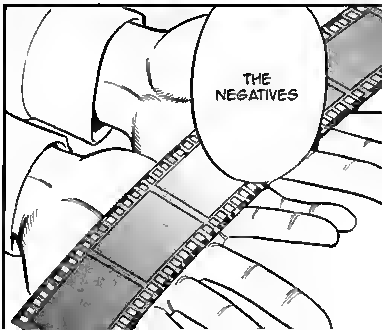
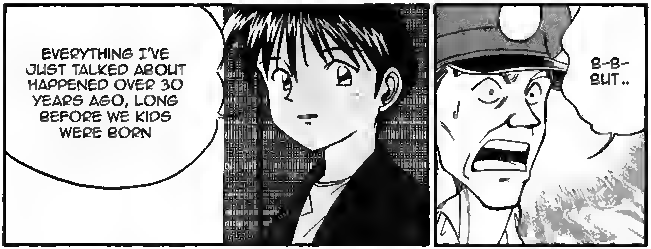
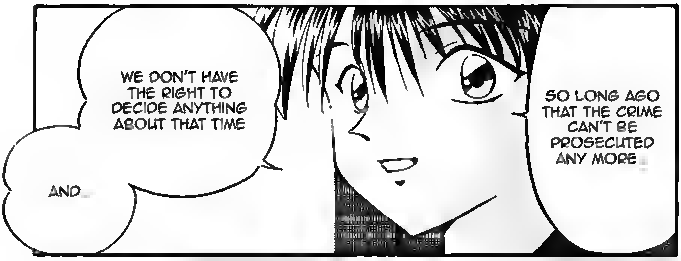
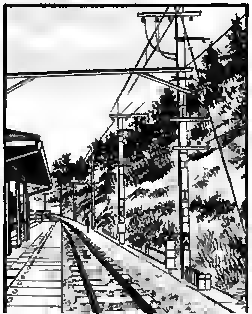

AS I SAID IN THE BEGINNING, I'LL LEAVE THE REST UP TO YOU


THE NEGATIVES





WE CAN'T TAKE THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR MAKING ANY DECISIONS...



...
IT'S JUST AS MOM SAID.
BUT I'VE BEEN TELLING A LIE ALL THIS TIME.
I NEVER KNEW IT WAS THIS PAINFUL.
COME ON YUTAKA, MICHIO, DON'T LOOK SO ANGRY
SMILE FOR MOTHER.
PEIP

THE AFTERIMAGE OF LIGHT QED

●歪んだ旋律…マガジンGREAT 1999年9月号掲載
●光の残像…マガジンGREAT 1999年11月号掲載

あなたは、この本を読んで、どのような感想をおもちになりましたか。

このほかに、「講談社コミックス」の中で、どんな本を読まれましたか。

このつぎには、どんな作家の、どんなまんがを読みたいとお考えですか。

コミックス編集の参考にさせていただきたいと思います。「読後の感想」と合わせて、左記のところあてにお知らせください。

東京都文京区音羽二丁目十二番二十一号
（郵便番号一一二―八〇〇一）
「講談社コミックス月刊」編集部
「Q.E.D.」係

講談社コミックス（月マ）
Q.E.D. 証明終了 ⑤
706巻

1999年12月15日　第1刷発行
2000年3月30日　第2刷発行
定価はカバーに表示してあります。

著者　加藤元浩
発行者　五十嵐隆夫
発行所　株式会社講談社
東京都文京区音羽二丁目一二―二一
（郵便番号一一二―八〇〇一）
編集部（〇三）五三九五・三四五八
販売部（〇三）五三九五・三六〇八
印刷所　図書印刷株式会社
製本所　永井製本株式会社

N.D.C. 726　195p　18cm

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電話（〇三）五三九五―三六〇三
なおこの本についてのお問い合わせは、月刊少年マガジン編集部宛にお願いいたします。
©加藤元浩　一九九九年
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ISBN4-06-333706-5　（月マ）　Printed in Japan

知性への挑戦状!!

Q.E.D.

証明終了

加藤元浩

その謎を解け!!

第1〜5巻
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50,000人に当たる!!

ラッキーナンバー フェア

実施中!! 99

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2000年9月30日(当日消印有効)

お問い合わせ先

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KC

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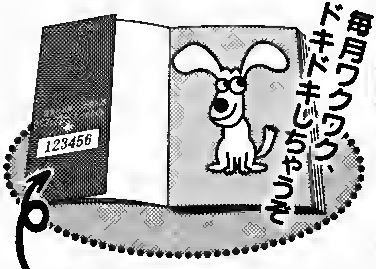

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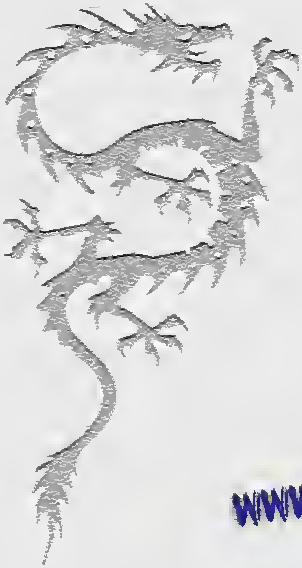

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